

**United Way** of Yellowstone County

# MINUTES OF VOLUNTEERING

# **IT'S UP TO US!**

#### Give Blood

- Sign-up with Vitalant to donate much needed blood to save lives.
- Inclusion Matters
  - There is more awareness about DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) in our conversations today.
  - Watch this video and reflect on what you can do to promote inclusiveness in your workplace and your life.

# **BRIGHTEN SOMEONE'S DAY!**

#### Write a Note

- Write and mail notes or letters to just say "hello I'm thinking of you."
- Positivity Campaign
  - Make notes of encouragement and leave them under windshield wipers on cars.
  - Put sticky notes with uplifting messages on bathroom mirrors.
  - Send a positive text message to 5 people right now.
  - Leave a positive note and/or surprise treat on a co-workers desk.
- Kindness Rocks
  - Paint small rocks with a smiley face or short message of encouragement and leave them for people to find and pick up.

- Multiple Your Caring..Pass It On
  - Check out the Multiply Your Caring spotlight for ways to promote COVID safety guidelines and share your appreciation for those who have taken care of us during the pandemic.
- SMILE!
  - Smile through your mask (your eyes will smile) and acknowledge those you pass.
- Make a Sweet Treat
  - Make a batch of cookies to share with someone.
  - Think of a neighbor, the local fire station, a teacher, or others.
- Lend a Hand
  - Help someone with their groceries or hold a door for a stranger.
- Buy Coffee
  - Buy coffee for the person behind you or purchase some coffee cards and hand them out to those coming into the coffee shop with a "have a good day" greeting.
- Neighbor to Neighbor
  - Check in with a neighbor who can't get out much and do a good deed for them such as picking up groceries or taking them supper.

#### • Start the Ripple

- Design and print business card-size notes to acknowledge good deeds or offer an encouraging word. Hand them out with a message to pass it on.
- Flood social media with positive and encouraging messages.

### **IT'S THE BASICS!**

#### • Spring into Spring

- Go through your closet and take clean spring and summer clothes in good condition to a basic needs agency or thrift shop.
- Housewarming Baskets
  - A "Welcome Home" basket for a new family or individual at Mission Apartment will help guests exiting the shelter feel welcome and supported on their path toward fully independent living.
    - Ideas for items: dish towels and cloths, dish soap, bath towels, throw blanket, can opener, wastebasket.
  - Contact Andrea at 406-259-3805, ext 116 for delivery to MRM.
- T-shirt Bags
  - Make bags out of T-shirts to be used by youth for carrying items they receive from Tumbleweed: food, clothes, hygiene items
    - Follow this link for instructions
  - Contact Tumbleweed at 406-259-2558 for delivery.

## THE WORLD AROUND US!

- Litter Walk
  - Go for a walk, take a bag and pick up litter along the way.
- Make it Green
  - Plant a tree for Earth Day or Arbor Day
  - Thursday, April 22 and Friday, April 30
- Rake-a-thon
  - Organize an hour for you, family or neighbors to rake yards in your neighborhood for those who might have trouble doing so.

- Seedlings to Food
  - Start vegetable seeds that can be transplanted and give the seedlings to a community garden.
  - The Amend Park Community Garden depends on plant donations to get their gardens going to be given to organizations that directly address food insecurity.
  - Contact Paul at 406-657-8308 or reinhardtp@billingsmt.gov to arrange for delivery.
- Salsa Garden
  - Start plants that can be used for salsa and donate them to the Salsa Garden project at the Boys and Girls Ranch.
  - Contact Jasmine at 406-655-21250 or jhansen@ybgr.org to arrange drop off.
- Tools for Others
  - Go through your garage or garden shed and give items in good condition that you don't need to someone who could use them.



- A Reading Surprise
  - Gather up and leave books or magazines at a Laundromat for others to have.