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### Volunteers ‘live united’ at United Way’s fall Day of Action

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There’s nothing like a Day of Action to kick-off the fall season and on Sept. 19 that is just what United Way of Monroe County did. As part of the United Way fundraising Campaign Kick-off Weekend, 22 students volunteered at five social service agencies throughout the community. Six Indiana University student organizations on campus were involved including: Student United Way, Student Alumni Association, START (SPEA), Sigma Chi fraternity, American Humanics and the Islamic Center.

Volunteers lived united by helping with different tasks throughout the day at the Boys and Girls Club of Ellettsville, Hoosier Hills Food Bank, Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard, Monroe County United Ministries, and the Monroe County Long Term Recovery Committee.

Seven students from the IU Student Alumni Association made their way to Hoosier Hills Food Bank. “They washed and boxed a ton of squash, literally! They helped us bring over 2,000 pounds of squash back to the food bank and put it into larger containers. It was a huge help to us!” said Kai Westerfield, volunteer coordinator at the food bank.

Rebecca Stanze, development coordinator at Monroe County United Ministries, explained the impact five volunteers had when they washed windows at the childcare facility. “The 85 children enrolled have 850 fingers and thumbs, all of which find their way to the windows at some point. Volunteer projects like this help us to keep our facilities clean, which mean MCUM’s Childcare Center is a more pleasant place for children, their families, and our employees!”

Barry Lessow, executive director of United Way, commented on the importance Day of Action holds for both nonprofits and volunteers, “These Day of Action activities connect generous volunteers with area organizations to accomplish vital projects that increase efficiency and productivity. Especially during challenging times, nonprofit groups are grateful for opportunities to receive the help volunteers so willingly give. We are thrilled that expanded Day of Action efforts could positively impact the community and hope volunteers had the chance to build relationships with other participants while learning more about these member agencies.”

United Way of Monroe County, a nonprofit organization, improves people’s lives by addressing critical needs today and working to reduce those needs tomorrow. Through collaborative initiatives and a network of 25 member agencies, United Way ensures Monroe County residents have the building blocks for a better life: education, earnings, and the essentials. Find more information at [www.monroequitedway.org](http://www.monroequitedway.org).



Shown are volunteers at September's United Way Day of Action. Courtesy photo

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