FAMILY DAY OF ACTION

Mark your calendars for a national day of family fun and community support! Family Day of Action celebrates the power of families who work together to support their neighbors and community. It is a great opportunity to introduce children to volunteering and teach valuable lessons about kindness, compassion, and caring. This year’s celebration is virtual, and we invite you to get started early with a fun list of activities below, including making cards, masks, blankets, and more.

HIGHLIGHTS:

FAMILY DAY OF ACTION

FEATURED ACTIVITIES: BAGS, MASKS, VIDEOS

CARD MAKING
Help brighten someone’s day and write a card. You can share a quote, joke/riddle, or send words of encouragement to let them know that they are loved. Cards will be distributed through United Way’s partners to people experiencing isolation, children that need a pick-me up, and families that are in need of some encouragement. Visit www.unitedwaygp.org/notes to make a card or two today!

HOLIDAY MEAL BAG DECORATION
Due by 3 p.m. November 20

Help create a festive and heartfelt holiday at home for local households by decorating the meal delivery bag. United Way will provide the bags - you just provide the decoration!

FMI see Holiday Meal Bag Insert, or email volunteer@unitedwaygp.org.

MASK MAKING
We are inviting community members to make and donate homemade masks. Email volunteer@unitedwaygp.org for sewing and donating instructions.

VIDEO MAKING
Inspire a student by sharing insight on where you work, what you do, a hobby you enjoy, a craft you are making or STEM activity you enjoy. Videos can be short (3-5 minutes) and can be done with your phone. We will provide you with tips to video and possible topics if you need an idea. FMI contact volunteer@unitedwaygp.org.
THANKSGIVING BASKETS
Lincoln Middle School serves a rich, diverse community of over 520 students and their families. While many families are self-sufficient, there are some who experience food insecurity, which is exacerbated by COVID-19. Thanksgiving can be a time of great stress and anxiety, as families try to provide a traditional meal to celebrate the season. Every meal basket provided is greatly appreciated and met with sighs of relief and tears of joy. Help make the Thanksgiving holiday truly a time of thanks. Email volunteer@unitedwaygp.org for more details.

MEAL DELIVERY VOLUNTEERS
During these unprecedented times, Portland schools are unable to welcome volunteers into schools. However, a greater need has been recognized for our food insecure families. PPS is recruiting volunteers to assist in delivering perishable food boxes to PPS families throughout the city of Portland. Volunteers are being asked to pick up an assigned number of these boxes at the Wayside Soup Kitchen on Wednesdays from 12:00-2:30 p.m. and then deliver them to families’ doorsteps. This need is vital to these families. Volunteers will be assigned a specific number of families (no more than 5) in the same general area. We would need a commitment of at least two months or, preferably, through the end of the school year. NOTE: This food delivery project is great for corporate teams. Volunteers can take turns weekly or work in pairs. Volunteers will be asked to participate in a brief training session, complete a vehicle liability waiver form, and to provide proof of vehicle insurance. Email volunteer@unitedwaygp.org for more details.

HELP KEEP STUDENTS WARM
Portland Public Schools is looking for sewers to help sew fleece neck warmers for students to wear during outdoor learning sessions. Neck warmers are easy to make and will be used by students throughout the colder months. FMI and a pattern, email volunteer@unitedwaygp.org.

PROJECT LINUS
Project Linus provides a sense of comfort, security, and warmth, through handmade quilts and fleece blankets, to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need in Cumberland and York Counties. Blankets are for children ages birth to 18 years old who are ill or in crisis. Blankets should be made from NEW material, be handmade and washable. Suggested guidelines for sizes are: 36 X 36 for the Neo-Natal Unit; 36 X 42 for infant or toddler; 40 X 54 or 60 for older children or 48 X 65+ for teens. FMI: http://www.facebook.com/projectlinuscumberlandyorkcounties.

SEW BAGS AT HOME OUT OF BLUE WRAP STERILIZATION MATERIAL
Partners for World Health (PWH) is looking for volunteers to sew bags from blue wrap sterilization material. Blue Wrap is a 99% polypropylene material used to wrap surgical instruments when they are placed in sterilization machines. PWH fills these bags with toiletries to be distributed to homeless shelters, food pantries, community partners, etc. around Thanksgiving and Christmas. FMI visit http://volunteer.unitedwaygp.org/need/detail/?need_id=519883.

A CLOSER LOOK
Take A Closer Look at the struggles and opportunities facing many of our neighbors here in Greater Portland, with our new virtual and immersive exhibit at www.closerlookgp.com.