



United Way of  
Sheboygan County  
Volunteer Center

## Volunteer Center Network – Special COVID-19 Meeting

*Summary of 4/22/20 virtual meeting*

### Agency Intro & Update

Jackie Erdman - Above & Beyond Children's Museum

- Focused on giving back while following mission. Virtual programming being provided.

Janet Anderson, HSHS St Nicholas Hospital

- No volunteers in hospital. Volunteers want to help so they are keeping in contact with them. Using the Volunteer Center site for wish list items. Moving forward, bring people back in slowly. Working on updating volunteer descriptions for future.

Ashleigh Monticello - Bridgeway Program Manager with Sheboygan County Interfaith Org.

- No volunteers in their building. Looking into options for engaging volunteers online for fundraisers that had to be cancelled. Community has been great at donating items of need.

Teresa McAlpine, Sheboygan Service Club

- Joining the call to get to know the volunteer needs to share with their SSC members.

Kate Shaver Bresser - Great Marriages

- Staff is working from home. Virtual meetings for counselors. Clients learning new technologies. Rescheduled their banquet and doing a virtual fundraiser in the meantime. All May events are virtual AND free! Register here: <https://www.great-marriages.org/events>

Nicole Hansen, Nourish Farms, Inc.

- Programs are on hold. No volunteers right now. Working on farming on their new property. Hoping to learn the gaps that Nourish's staff could fill. Nourish is also doing Distance Learning videos on our website with our staff/committee members and their families. If anyone has questions about this, reach out to Nicole: [Nicole@nourishfarms.org](mailto:Nicole@nourishfarms.org)

Sally Bork - Boy Scouts

- Troops are meeting virtually. Planning for summer camp and the different options. Volunteers are becoming tech savvy! Their Scouting @ Home website: <https://baylakesbsa.org/scouting-at-home/>

Ginny Nyhuis - Alzheimer's Association

- Offering services virtually. 24/7 hotline is still open. Support groups and webinar learning options – need volunteers for that. Alzheimer's Association: [www.alz.org/wi](http://www.alz.org/wi) or Helpline 800.272.3900

Theresa Zimmermann - REINS

- Clients are vulnerable so looking into ways to keep them engaged. Coming up with NEW virtual activities. They are starting their season on time and are contacting participants now. 358 volunteer spots and are currently halfway full.

Char Pachniak - H4G

- Mentors are hosting virtual meetings one-on-one. They are transitioning to do group virtual meetings soon. Looking for volunteers to present on different topics to help keep students engaged and still connected. Isolation is a concern. Still looking for wipes and hand sanitizer for transportation support for their families.

Melissa Puksich- Sharon S. Richardson Community Hospice

- Volunteers are writing to patients. Volunteers are sewing masks. Keeping listings updated on Volunteer Center and have seen some new interest for online training. Outward messaging is upbeat and uplifting. Couldn't do their banquet, so they are sending volunteers a coupon for agency merchandise.



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Amber Carey - American Red Cross

- Visits as usual. Volunteer positions are remote or virtual. They continue to promote the need for blood – so they do have volunteers at those sites. New volunteer position “blood screening” for intake at the blood drives. Disaster action team is mostly virtual as well. Using PPE when necessary. Smoke alarm installation event has been postponed and gala will be virtual now.

Adrianna Hilbelink - The Salvation Army

- Their regular 200 volunteers down to 16 due to age. Programs had to be re-organized. Pantry is open. Saturday meals are now bag lunches instead of the community meals. 60 volunteers normally for serving dinners but now community members are making and delivering a meal instead. Planning their meal donations will be through June. Salvation Ride is cancelled – mark calendars for next year: July 10, 2021. Family store hours are suspended. Sending lots of thank you cards to volunteers. Volunteer needs in their shelter – so they are looking for people to screen clients as they come back into the shelter daily.

Cara Heidt - John Michael Kohler Arts Center

- Arts Center is closed and no volunteers. Some volunteers are helping with masks. Their programming has gone virtual, including tours. May 4<sup>th</sup> they will be deciding if they are going to postpone or cancel the summer music series.

Kendra Kelling - Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership

- Volunteer opportunities are postponed. Moving towards virtual opportunities. Encouraging people to find comfort in nature. Connecting with all partners at this time.

Carol Myers - Literacy Council

- 95 Tutors on hold. Their classes in companies and LTC are on hold. Clients have cell phone access but not computers for the most part so virtual learning is difficult. Tutors are doing wellness phone calls or texts. If tutors feel there are struggles in the home – then they are connected to United Way resources. Tutors are using Facetime when they can.

Jody Merenick - RCS Empowers, Inc.

- No volunteers coming in. RCS Play is postponed to next year. Would like to utilize volunteers more but with confidentiality checks are done by staff. Remote learning has started with the help of staff. Staff has been packaging wipes and being flexible. Want to get ideas on how to stay connected with volunteers.

Ryan Sorenson - Safe Harbor

- No volunteers on site. Isolation adds layers to the already existing domestic violence. Staffing helpline still 24/7 and have seen a shift in types of calls – lots of mental support. Digital promotion of Sexual Assault Awareness Month – contact Ryan for more info ([RyanS@sheboygansafeharbor.org](mailto:RyanS@sheboygansafeharbor.org)).

Kimberly Diedrich – Humane Society of Sheboygan County

- Online education courses, art projects, and fostering animals is going on. Almost all animals are fostered or have been adopted.

Dawn Grabowski – LOVE INC

- Volunteers are supporting their call center by excepting calls in their homes and redirecting clients to resources. They have been sending a weekly email forwarding volunteer opportunities. Cards have been sent out to past clients as well. They are hosting a prayer time each night on Facebook at 7p.

Sharon Roethel – Sheboygan Historical Museum

- Working from home and learning virtually.

Kim Verstegen – BOALTC

- Virtual opportunities and weekly messaging is going out to volunteers. Wondering what needs will be when the Safer At Home is lifted.



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Penny Weber – Sheboygan PD/Sheriffs Volunteers

- Keeping volunteers updated. Sheboygan Neighborhood Pride meetings are cancelled. Crime Stoppers are meeting by conference call. National Night Out has been moved to October 6<sup>th</sup>. Everything else is on hold.

Niki Zohrab – Big Brothers Big Sisters

- Communicating with littles virtually. Still recruiting (17 littles waiting to be matched). 11 littles in the school-based program will be matched when school is back in buildings.

## Volunteer Needs, Virtual Volunteering, Wish List Needs

- Post updated volunteer opportunities on Volunteer Center's website under the COVID area. Those are being shared with United Way business contacts and weekly on the radio.
- Virtual volunteer opportunities continue to be encouraged. Ideas can be found here: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1AdkFLDCC9Hk5IHEnwIHNF6qiDkRAsB2K>
- Are Wish list items are being filled? Watch for survey from Lee Anne.

Continue to reach out to Lee Anne to add/update your wish list items or any other questions ([leeanne@uwofsc.org](mailto:leeanne@uwofsc.org)).

## Relief Fund Update

Sheboygan Service Club (SSC) is co-leading the Sheboygan County COVID-19 Relief Fund with United Way of Sheboygan County. Special thanks to SSC for their generous contribution from their endowment.

Applications for phase one (immediate needs) of funding are still open. The Fund Distribution Team continues to respond to grant requests with urgency. [Click here for the application.](#) The main goal of phase two funding is to return the local social sector back to normal. There will be a new application and a notification that goes out to this group when that happens.

Questions on applying, contact Gina Covelli ([gina@uwofsc.org](mailto:gina@uwofsc.org)).

## Radio Spot Update & Spirit Awards

- With the 'Safer At Home' Order – the radio stations set up a call for our weekly spot but only one person can call in. This is certainly an important time to spread awareness for community resources so, while this order is in effect, we are asking agencies that signed up for radio spots this month to send updates to Katelyn Piper ([katelyn@uwofsc.org](mailto:katelyn@uwofsc.org)) via email so she can share that information on air for you!
- To spread awareness for how people can give or get help, Kohler Co. created imagery that will be shared on billboards and through digital media channels. Watch for this messaging and use #SheboyganCountyStrong when you can to showcase all the wonderful work your agencies are doing during these trying times! Visit [sheboygancountystrong.com](http://sheboygancountystrong.com) for up-to-date information on how to **get** and **give** help.
- Spirit Awards Update: Pencil in May 20<sup>th</sup> to celebrate volunteerism virtually! All nominators were contacted Monday and all nominees will be contacted next week. The nominators and nominee finalists/winners in each category will be notified separately. With the help of the nominator, we are hoping to record the winners'

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reactions on a video chat ahead of time. Reach out to Katelyn ([katelyn@uwofsc.org](mailto:katelyn@uwofsc.org)) or Lee Anne ([leeanne@uwofsc.org](mailto:leeanne@uwofsc.org)) if you have any questions.

## COVID-19 Nonprofit Response Network Updates

UWSC continues to host weekly virtual meetings with local nonprofits throughout the social sector. This network serves as an opportunity to convene conversations around emerging and ongoing needs, resource sharing, best practices, and to inspire collaborations that best serve residents in our county.

To receive information about the COVID-19 Nonprofit Response Network and other resources for nonprofit agencies, visit [uwofsc.org/covid-19/nonprofit-support](http://uwofsc.org/covid-19/nonprofit-support).

### Event Planning/Posting updates

- As you plan your events, fill this form out for access to a shared Nonprofit Google Calendar created by Big Brothers Big Sisters: <https://forms.gle/pC66ixg9kAuKR5rJ6>.
- As your events are finalized, post event details on Sheboygan County Chamber of Commerce: <https://business.sheboygan.org/events/public-submission>

## Upcoming Event Updates/Other Notes

- **Next Meeting:** June 10<sup>th</sup> at United Way
- **2020 Day of Caring:** September 17<sup>th</sup>

## Questions?

- **Nonprofit Response Network** | Kate Baer ([kate@uwofsc.org](mailto:kate@uwofsc.org))
- **Relief Fund Applications** | Gina Covelli ([gina@uwofsc.org](mailto:gina@uwofsc.org))
- **Relief Fund Contributions** | Emily Kaiser ([emily@uwofsc.org](mailto:emily@uwofsc.org))
- **Community Resource Marketing & Outreach** | Katelyn Piper ([katelyn@uwofsc.org](mailto:katelyn@uwofsc.org))
- **Volunteer Opportunities** | Lee Anne Raleigh ([leeanne@uwofsc.org](mailto:leeanne@uwofsc.org))

For immediate questions regarding COVID-19, contact our local public health department at 920-459-0321.