Henry County and Martinsville UNITED WAY

Our September Impact









Day of Action Recap

THANK YOU!

We welcomed 120 volunteers and community members from local businesses and organizations on Friday, September 18, at 8:30 a.m. at the West Piedmont Higher Education Center. Each year, our Day of Action serves as the commencement for our Annual Campaign and demonstrates the potential our community has when we rally our neighbors for the common good and leverage the caring power of our residents to make a lasting impact on Martinsville and Henry County.

UWHCM Board of Directors VP, Callie Hietala, stated she, “walked away from Day of Action feeling incredibly hopeful.” She went on to remark that she believes, “we live in a place where people understand the value of service and the role United Way plays in turning that spirit of service into meaningful action. I

would encourage anyone who wants to make a difference in the place they call home, anyone who believes in the power of service to lift others up, and anyone who believes that building a stronger community for all our citizens is something that requires our collective effort to get involved with United Way, whether through volunteering or supporting the annual campaign."

Over 500 hours of community service were logged with volunteer projects and drives that included, but were not limited to: sorting clothes and preparing boxes of hygiene items at the Henry County Food Pantry; cleanup along the Dick & Willie Trail; a food drive for the P&HCC Patriot Pantry; construction site work for Fostering Champions; facility painting at the Hairston Home for Adults; cleaning and disinfecting of toys at Blue Ridge Regional Library-Martinsville; and cleanup, beautification, and administrative work at the Heritage Center & Museum.

With current numbers showing $175,313.62 of our $500,000 2026-2027 Campaign Goal raised, we are working to sustain and assist local programs which include supporting more than 25 local partners that strive to advance health, youth opportunity, and financial stability in the Henry County and Martinsville region. Our current fundraising season runs through Friday, February 26, 2027.

Make A Donation

MHC Partners for Children

On September 16, Early Literacy Coordinator Erica James shared fall stories at Maplewood Housing Community, while Family Navigator Diane Smith and Director Melanie McLarty assisted families and children with painting sunflowers and making seasonal snacks. On September 19, the MHCPC Team attended SOVALA's Festival Latino at Patrick & Henry Community College where they connected families with local resources, handed out free books, and offered a fall craft.

On September 19, Childcare Quality Improvement Coordinator Ruth Anne Collins hosted the "CLASS Ready: Tips & Tools for Observation Day" training. Fifteen childcare providers attended the event at the West Piedmont Higher Education Center. The training explained what educators can expect on observation day and how planning can help them prepare.

On September 23, Diane Smith, Erica James, and Melanie McLarty hosted a Circle of Parents meeting at the Virginia Museum of Natural History. Children were able to explore the museum and enjoy fun activities while the Team shared resources and discussed parenting challenges with parents as they learned more on adverse childhood experiences in the second part of this discussion from Bonnie Favero of Piedmont Community Services.

For Dolly Parton's Imagination Library's **Give Like Dolly Day** on September 25, our MHCPC Team partnered with all four Blue Ridge Regional Library branches across Henry County. Families took part in celebrating Dolly Parton with crafts, stories, movies, snacks, and other Dolly-themed activities. Our MHCPC Team provided refreshments and assisted with the events.













Healthy Community

Our Healthy Hearts Learning Collaborative conducted community outreach at the Uptown Farmers Market, engaging directly with visitors to increase awareness of local health and wellness resources, as well as their own programs, such as Dance Fitness, and free 3-month gym memberships.

Come out for their next Dance Fitness session on Saturday, October 31, at 10.a.m. All classes are held in the Healthy Heart Hub located at 70 Marshall Way in Fieldale.

For more information on this program, please contact our CHW, Loleader, at 276-403-3516.


Martinsville and Henry County
Virginia Healthy Hearts
Initiative
HALLOWEEN
Dance Fitness
Come have a
Boot-acular Time!
Location: 70 Marshall Way, Fieldale VA
Healthy Heart Hub
31 October
All Ages Welcome | Start at 10 AM
Instructor: Ismael Cano
For more information: (276)759-3764
Loleader Valentine









CHW Supervisor Karen, CHW Loleader, and our Healthy Hearts Learning Collaborative also assisted with Refuge Temple Ministrie's free community meal on Saturday, September 12. This hot and delicious meal of baked or fried chicken, sides, and dessert was prepared and served to anyone who showed up, drove by, or heard second-hand, regardless of need.

AmeriCorps

Twenty-one AmeriCorps Service Volunteers gathered on September 1 to begin year three of Early Literacy Tutoring in partnership with Serve Virginia and AmeriCorps within the Henry County Public Schools (HCPS) system. Our Service Volunteers provide tutoring for students in Kindergarten through second grade who can benefit from assistance to achieve grade-level literacy. The orientation included training by Keith Scott of HCPS on policies and practices regarding responsibilities when in a crisis and how to report any suspicious activity noted while at a school.

In addition to reviewing AmerCorps policies and signing service agreements, Service Volunteers were engaged in activities to get to know one another and understand approaches to successful tutoring. Following their training, on Wednesday, September 2, Service Volunteers reported to eight of the nine HCPS and were quickly put to work.









Eastman Annual Golf Tournament Recap

THANK YOU!

It was a beautiful day for our Eastman Annual Golf Tournament held on Saturday, September 26! We're grateful to Wes and Jason for their continued support and arrangement of this event each year.











Holiday Gift Extravaganza

Mark your calendars for this Giving Tuesday, December 1! We invite you to join us for a special evening of live music, festive hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and a silent auction to benefit our Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

The event is free to attend thanks to generous our sponsors Renewal by Andersen and Callie Hietala & Dr. Joe Keiper.

RSVPs will open on Sunday, November 1. Please follow our Facebook event for details!



Financial Security

There's still time to register for **The Stretch –– An Economic Reality Simulation**, coming up on Tuesday, October 27, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at West Piedmont Higher Education Center.

This unique event allows participants to assume the role of a low-income family member living on a limited budget. The experience is divided into four 15-minute sessions, each representing one week in which participants must navigate the challenges of providing for their family and maintaining their home.

Each day, more than forty-three million Americans, including eleven million children under the age of 18, face harsh realities of poverty. Many more have income levels that fall just above the poverty line, yet not

low enough to qualify for food programs or Medicaid to make ends meet. The recent economic turndown has seen unemployment rates rise, and the use of emergency resources and food pantries increase. While the state average for families living in poverty is 9.9%, here in Henry County, 16% of families live in poverty with the median household income hovering just above $50,000. Similarly, 23.5% of Martinsville City households are below the poverty level with the median household income of $46,727.

The Stretch will allow participants to take a small step to better understand the stressors households face and how they might be involved in affecting change to make a difference. We invite you to join us.

For more information on **The Stretch** or to sign up, please visit our Facebook event page, website, contact Brandy Lawless, 276-638-3946, x109, or Brandy@UnitedWayofHCM.org.

VITA Appreciation Luncheon

Our VITA volunteers and staff gathered for a delicious lunch on Friday, September 25 at the Fieldale Park. This is an annual tradition following a long tax season—which doesn't end for our VITA office in April!

Lisa Frick, Community Impact Coordinator and VITA program lead, shared that she is, "so incredibly grateful to this incredible group of volunteers who gave their time and expertise to our community. The VITA site quite literally could not run without their dedication and endless patience. Thank you for being the heart, soul, and engine of our VITA program!"

Please be on the lookout for upcoming announcements and household mailings regarding the 2027 Tax Season and hours of operation for our VITA Tax Site!



HOOKER® FURNISHINGS

Bassett®

FRITH CONSTRUCTION

These businesses supported United Way of Henry County and Martinsville at $10,000 or more during the 2025-2026 season.

Did you enjoy this email?



United Way of Henry County and Martinsville | P.O. Box 951 149 East Main Street | Martinsville, VA 24112 US

Unsubscribe | Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice

Constant Contact

Try email & social marketing for free!