

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **NEW ONLINE RESOURCE FOR VOLUNTEERISM**

### **United Way increases community engagement by launching “Get Connected”**

By creating a venue that both allows individuals to see the many ways they can make a difference and agencies to promote their needs, United Way of Mifflin Juniata in partnership with the Lewistown Ministerium, has increased the potential for volunteerism, donations, and involvement in the community. Nonprofits and charities in the area have already begun posting their volunteer needs online in hopes of increasing the opportunities for community members to get involved. The online system, which is administrated by United Way of Mifflin Juniata, is called “Get Connected.”

“It is our hope that this site can quickly become a valuable resource for our communities,” said Mike McMonigal, Executive Director of United Way. “We often get calls from groups and individuals looking for opportunities to help out in the community. This site can help make the connections.”

Get Connected will do more than just create matches among the community agencies and private citizens; it will also help to build lasting relationships by allowing volunteers to follow their favorite agencies and causes.

“The great part is that this resource is not limited to United Way funded programs, but is available for the entire community to utilize. If you work with volunteers in any capacity, you can post your needs on this site,” said McMonigal. “Our goal is to make it easy for people to get connected so that together we can address the challenges in our communities and keep supporting the programs that make Mifflin and Juniata Counties a great place to live.”

Some of the opportunities currently listed online include Volunteer Tutors at the Tuscarora Intermediate Unit, Adult Mentors at Big Brothers Big Sisters, and Beautifiers at the Mifflin County Library. Users can go to [www.mjunitiedway.org](http://www.mjunitiedway.org) and follow the Volunteer link to respond to these needs.

A simple day of volunteerism can have life-changing results. United Way of Mifflin-Juniata has a long history of connecting volunteers with human service agencies through the Day of Caring, an annual event that was first introduced to the area 19 years ago.

“It has been so rewarding to see the impact of volunteers each September when we organize the Day of Caring,” said Roxie Garrett, Resource Coordinator at United Way. “To create more opportunities for positive change throughout the year is very exciting, and I think the Get Connected site is something that our community has been in need of for quite some time.”

For more information about “Get Connected” or to get access to an training webinar for agencies, please contact Mike McMonigal by calling 717-248-9636 or emailing [MMcMonigal@mjunitiedway.org](mailto:MMcMonigal@mjunitiedway.org).

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