

Committed Community

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

When it comes to giving, residents of Greenwood are selfless. The community shines with those who donate their time to a number of local non-profit organizations, and the opportunities to serve are growing more numerous. Leading the effort are the Greenwood Chamber of Commerce and its member organizations, like the United Way.

“We have a Non-Profit Council and its mission is to serve, support and strengthen the non-profit sector through capacity-building, collaboration and advocacy for a better Greenwood area,” says Angelle LaBorde, President and CEO of the Greenwood Chamber of Commerce.

To that end, in October 2011, recent graduates from the chamber’s Leadership Greenwood program organized the first “Match Your Mission” volunteer fair. More than 30 agencies came out to the event to solicit help for their particular causes. The second annual event is planned for August 2012.

The Non-Profit Council also hosts quarterly meetings for local non-profit representatives. These get-togethers feature guest speakers on topics relevant to running and sustaining a charitable organization, including fundraising, website design and marketing strategies.

The chair of the Non-Profit Council, Sally Baggett, knows firsthand what it means to rely on the help of community members. As Director of Family Support and Child Development at The Children’s Center of Carolina Health Centers, Baggett is always looking for people who want to get involved. Volunteers at the Children’s Center can choose how they want to pitch in, from

supporting fundraising efforts to hosting monthly group meetings for clients.

“We have between 8,000-10,000 children enrolled at the center for pediatric care,” she says, “and we need volunteers...to come in and read to the children.” Baggett says this initiative not only builds literacy, but provides a model for parents to read to their children at home.



One of the many organizations located at the United Center.

One of the organizational members of the chamber’s Non-Profit Council is the United Way of Abbeville and Greenwood Counties. In Greenwood, this regional agency has created resources for other area charities to improve upon their missions through its “United Center for Community Care.”



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The center, established in 2008, currently houses eight different outreach organizations. Some of these include the Food Bank of Greenwood County, which feeds around 350 families a week,



Generous donations from area residents make the community stronger.

and Greenwood Soup Kitchen Ministries—serving approximately 140 people every day.

“Now volunteers can come here and expand



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their volunteerism with multiple agencies in one location,” explains Denise Manley, president and CEO of the local United Way branch.

The organization is also set to launch a new initiative called “Get Connected” early in 2012. This new program will directly link residents to opportunities for service through a website administered by the United Way.

Greenwood citizens serve as models of how community service goes hand in hand with caring, commitment and creativity. ■

By Ryan Newhouse



There are endless ways to help, from the small and simple to the large and involved.

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