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Volunteer Fox Cities Joins United Way Fox Cities to Build a Stronger Community Through Volunteer Engagement

Integration will make it easier for people, nonprofits, and businesses to connect and serve the community.

The Fox Cities are becoming even more connected this fall, making it easier for people, nonprofits, and businesses to get involved in the community. Beginning Nov. 1, 2026, Volunteer Fox Cities will join United Way Fox Cities, bringing together the strengths of both organizations to help our communities thrive.

Volunteer Fox Cities has long connected people who want to volunteer with nonprofits that need their time and talents. United Way Fox Cities brings nonprofits, businesses, donors, and other community partners together to support local organizations, connect people with services and support, and address challenges facing the community.

The integration brings those strengths together, making it easier for nonprofits to identify volunteers and connect with community partners, for businesses to engage their employees in local service, and for individuals to find meaningful ways to give their time and talents.

The goal is to retain as many Volunteer Fox Cities staff as possible through the integration, although roles and responsibilities may change as part of the United Way Fox Cities team.

The Get Connected volunteer portal will also remain available to volunteers and nonprofit partners. Carolyn Desrosiers, Volunteer Fox Cities CEO, will become Vice President of Volunteer Engagement and continue leading volunteer strategy and overseeing all volunteer efforts.

“This next chapter builds on the 33-year history of Volunteer Fox Cities. For the United Way this is an impact strategy that brings the experience of two service organizations together to strengthen volunteerism in our community,” added Lisa Kogan-Praska, United Way Fox Cities President & CEO.

The Fox Cities has already experienced the value of Volunteer Fox Cities and United Way Fox Cities working together. During the recent tornado response, the organizations worked

alongside community partners to connect volunteers through the Volunteer Coordination and Assignment Center at the former UW Fox campus. In the six days the center was open, more than 6,800 volunteers contributed over 30,000 hours helping with debris cleanup, supply delivery, and neighborhood recovery efforts. The Center also served as a distribution pickup point for donated tornado relief supplies. More than 1,000 pallets of donated items were received, sorted, and distributed. The response demonstrated how coordinated volunteer engagement can help a community grow stronger together, even in a crisis.

“People across the Fox Cities are willing to step forward when they see a need,” said Carolyn Desrosiers, incoming Vice President of Volunteer Engagement. “This integration makes it easier for them to do so, and for organizations to find people who want to contribute their time and talents. We look forward to this opportunity for growth and collaboration that will ultimately enable us to provide stronger service to the community.”

For more information about the integration, please see the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) below. Questions about the integration can be directed to Lisa Kogan-Praska at Lisa.KoganPraska@unitedwayfoxcities.org.

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About Volunteer Fox Cities

Volunteer Fox Cities is a nonprofit organization committed to strengthening the social fabric of the Fox Valley by connecting individuals and businesses with meaningful nonprofit volunteer opportunities that make a difference. For more information about Volunteer Fox Cities and its programs, visit www.volunteerfoxcities.org.

About United Way Fox Cities

United Way is a tax-exempt, donor-supported organization that mobilizes communities to action so all can thrive. For over 75 years, United Way Fox Cities has partnered with the community to co-create solutions to people's most pressing challenges. From strengthening local resilience to advancing health, youth opportunity, and financial security, United Way is working towards a future where every person can reach their full potential. To learn more, visit unitedwayfoxcities.org.

United Way Fox Cities & Volunteer Fox Cities Integration Public Talking Points/FAQ

Why are United Way Fox Cities and Volunteer Fox Cities integrating?

For decades, United Way Fox Cities (UWFC) and Volunteer Fox Cities (VFC) have shared the belief that communities are strongest when they are connected and every individual can contribute to the greater good.

Together, our organizations have helped thousands of individuals, businesses, and nonprofits work toward a stronger, healthier, and more vibrant Fox Cities. As community needs are becoming increasingly complex, bringing our organizations together allows for strengthening the services each uniquely provides.

Will volunteer opportunities change? What kinds of opportunities or work will community members have access to?

Volunteer opportunities will remain consistent with those available prior to the integration. Opportunities will continue to reflect a variety of community needs and interests, such as events, food distribution, mentoring, administrative support, outdoor projects, donation drives, and disaster response. Individuals, groups, and workplace teams will be able to explore opportunities that match their interests, availability, and experience through the Get Connected portal.

Was the decision made because of the tornado?

No. Planning for the integration was underway prior to the tornado. The tornado response did, however, illustrate why coordinated volunteer engagement is so critical and what can happen when community organizations work together to connect people with areas of need.

How have UWFC and VFC worked together in the past?

Over the past several years, United Way Fox Cities and Volunteer Fox Cities have worked together more intentionally through United Way's annual campaign and collaborative events such as Day of Caring. In July 2025, Volunteer Fox Cities co-located on the United Way campus, benefiting from donated space and other in-kind support. The move also created more opportunities for staff to build relationships and collaborate day-to-day. Over time, this growing collaboration made it clear that our organizations were stronger together.

Will Volunteer Fox Cities' work continue?

Yes. Volunteer engagement is at the heart of this integration, and VFC's mission to bring people together to spark meaningful change will only be deepened. We will build on the

legacy and strengths of VFC, and many VFC programs will continue, including the AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP program, which supports over 240 adults ages 55+. Volunteer engagement is now an even more central strategy for strengthening nonprofits, building social connection, and responding to community needs.

How will this change impact…

Nonprofits?

One of the most significant benefits of the integration is that **most volunteer engagement services will now be available at no cost** to nonprofits, schools, and government agencies in Outagamie, Calumet, Northern Winnebago, and Waupaca counties.

Nonprofits will have unlimited access to Get Connected, volunteer referrals, one-on-one coaching, guidance on volunteer engagement best practices, educational workshops, and training. These services will be available regardless of whether an organization receives funding from United Way Fox Cities or aligns with its impact areas.

United Way Fox Cities will also work with nonprofit partners to shape future services around their needs. The opportunity for nonprofits to be an RSVP partner station and receive support from RSVP volunteers will continue to be free.

RSVP volunteers and stations?

The AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP program draws on the life experiences, skills, and know-how of adults 55+ to meet the needs of our communities. In the 25+ years that VFC has been a sponsor of this national program for Outagamie, Calumet, and Waupaca counties, over 1,500 RSVP volunteers have served hundreds of thousands of hours at local nonprofits. Though the program sponsor will change to UWFC, the RSVP program will continue uninterrupted with guidance from the RSVP Advisory Council. We believe participation in the RSVP program will only increase as a result of this integration.

Individual volunteers and community members?

We believe everyone has something to offer their community, and this integration will make it easier for people to find ways to get involved.

Current volunteer support will continue, with more opportunities to discover local needs, connect with organizations, and stay engaged over time. Volunteer opportunities will also be easier to find and more visible across the community.

Businesses and corporate partners?

The integration will make it easier for businesses to connect employees with volunteer opportunities, support local organizations, and build stronger community partnerships.

Programs such as the Give Back Bus and Volunteer in a Box are expected to continue, with refreshed offerings as needs and opportunities are evaluated. The Workplace Volunteer Council will also continue, giving corporate leaders a regular opportunity to share ideas and best practices around employee volunteering.

By bringing volunteer engagement and United Way Fox Cities' community work together, businesses will have a simpler way to get employees involved, strengthen their teams, and support local communities.

What will happen to the VFC staff?

All current Volunteer Fox Cities staff have positions in the integrated model, with some shifts in roles and responsibilities as they become part of the United Way Fox Cities team.

When will the integration officially take effect?

The UWFC and VFC Boards approved the integration at the end of July**.** The integration will officially take effect Nov. 1, 2026.

What is the bigger vision?

The bigger vision is to create a stronger community by bridging people and purpose, nonprofits and capacity, and businesses and community. We aim to create more sustainable paths to giving, volunteering, advocacy, and making an impact.

Who should nonprofits, volunteers, or businesses contact with questions?

Questions regarding the integration can be directed to United Way Fox Cities President & CEO Lisa Kogan-Praska at Lisa.KoganPraska@unitedwayfoxcities.org.