

Nonprofits welcome volunteers on 'Action' day

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

More than two dozen young professionals took time away from their busy work schedules to give back to the community last week.

More than 300 United Way agencies nationwide participated in United Way Day of Action on June 21. The effort is designed to support United Way member agencies with a boost of volunteer support. The local Day of Action was led by the United Way of Forsyth County's Young Leaders United, an organization of professionals ranging in age from 18-40 who pledge a minimum of \$250 and 24 volunteer hours annually to United Way.

This year, the Gateway YWCA, the Salvation Army Center of Hope and Youth Opportunities, a non-profit agency that serves children and adolescents who are experiencing emotional and behavioral challenges, welcomed Day of Action volunteers.

"We're part of a greater network (of agencies) today all across the nation," said the United Way's Heather Bolt. "I'm really pleased with our volunteer turnout for three different agencies."

Volunteers organized a resource library for clients and staff and painted outdoor picnic tables in colorful hues at Youth Opportunities.

"We're wanting to create a happy space outside for our staff as well as our kids," explained Youth Opportunities Development Director Crystal Simmons. "It's pretty much the first step in making the outside of the building as colorful and fun as the inside is."

Volunteers Alysha Belton and Joseph Sikorski worked to catalogue and organize materials in Youth Opportunities' resource library.

Belton, a city native participating in the Day of Action for the first time, said being a part of the day was rewarding for her.

"As a Habitat (for Humanity) homeowner, I've benefitted from a lot of programs that support the community," commented the mother of two. "United Way does so much for our community that I wanted to do my part and give back."

For Sikorski, a Long Island, N.Y. native, participating in the Day of Action was another way to settle into the place he has called home for the past three and a half years.

"Though I haven't been here for very long, it's still has been a part of me and a part of my life," the B/E Aerospace employee said of Winston-Salem. "It feels good to give back to an area that has given so much to me."

Day of Action, which this year focused on issues surrounding education, income and health and bolstering community partnerships and networks, presented a valuable opportunity for Youth Opportunities to share its message with a new audience, Simmons said.

"The United Way has so many connections within the community that when someone comes here and they learn about our agency, then they're able to go back and tell others ... it starts a ripple effect."

Volunteers sorted non-perishable food donations and packed giveaway boxes for Salvation Army clients at the Center of Hope.

"The challenge with donations is not only getting them, but also sorting them as well," said John Gladman, assistant director of Social Services for the Center. "Without groups like the United Way, we wouldn't be able to do that. Without our community



Photos by Layla Garms

(From left) Peter Mikeal, John Gladman, Tim Burchette, Heather Bolt and Angela Martin.



Left: Alysha Belton with Joseph Sikorski.



Below: Heather Bolt (left) and Crystal Simmons paint.

partners, our impact would be minimal, so the assistance of the United Way plays an integral role for the organization."

Wake Forest University alumnus Tim Burchette

said he chose to volunteer at the Salvation Army because he wanted to help an agency that meets some of the community's most basic needs.

"I just think that foods

security is so important," commented the BB&T employee. "The church I go to (Winston-Salem First), they routinely cite Winston-Salem as being one of the hungriest places in America, especially for children. That especially made me more aware."

Volunteers also lent their support to a summer camp program at the Gateway, where volunteers assisted camp staffers with field day activities and games during the Day of Action.

WSSU hires Walker

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Dr. Corey D. B. Walker, associate professor and chair of the department of Africana studies at Brown University, has been named the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Winston-Salem State University, effective July 1.

As dean, Dr. Walker will be the academic and administrative leader for the College's more than 200 full-time and part-time faculty members in 13 departments that enroll more than 3,300 students in courses each year. Walker will become the John W. and Anna Hodgkin Hanes Professor of the Social Sciences and tenured professor in the department of social sciences. He will report to Dr. Brenda Allen, WSSU provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.



Submitted Photo

Dr. Corey D. B. Walker comes from Brown University.

A scholar of African American social, political and religious thought, Walker in 2006 joined the faculty at Brown University, where he is also an affiliated faculty member in the departments of American studies and religious studies, the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, the Center for the Study of Race and the Committee on Science and Technology Studies. A tenured associate professor of Africana studies since 2009, he was named chair of the department of Africana studies in 2011. During 2010-2012, Walker was a non-resident fellow at the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research at Harvard University.

Prior to Brown University, he was an assistant professor of religious studies and African and African American studies at the University of Virginia where he was also director of the Center for the Study of Local Knowledge funded by a major grant from the Ford Foundation. Walker has served as a visiting professor at the Historisches Institut at Friedrich-Schiller Universität Jena in Germany.

He is an active member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and the Prince Hall Freemasons.

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