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Char-Em United Way

For Immediate Release: May 11, 2017
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The Next Generation of Volunteering

Char-Em United Way continues to match volunteers with local nonprofits through the use of Volunteer Connections. The site was redesigned on May 10, 2017 so volunteers and agencies alike can post and find needs in the community. Currently, there are 611 people registered as volunteers and 90 active agencies on the site. We would love to see the number of users on the site grow. Find it by visiting www.charemuitedway.org/volunteer or text "VC" to 51555 for mobile access.

Volunteer Connections is a free resource that benefits the entire community. First introduced in late 2009, Volunteer Connections, a virtual volunteer center, is a tool Char-Em United Way uses to match available volunteers with needs that meet their skills and interests in our region. There are projects available for all ages and talents. Local volunteer needs are also served by providing additional resources for volunteer recruitment, recognition, and management. Volunteer Connections is one of the strategic initiatives developed by Char-Em United Way and is supported through donations to the United Way campaign.

Nonprofit agencies in Charlevoix and Emmet Counties list their volunteer needs on the Volunteer Connections website. Volunteers then help with these requests, based on their skills, interests, and availability. By logging on and becoming a "Fan" of an agency, volunteers receive an email whenever a new need is posted. This way volunteers can connect to agencies they have a passion for and would like to support through their volunteerism. Organizations certainly benefit from the volunteers but the volunteers can gain much from their volunteer experiences as well. Job seekers can find opportunities to gain valuable experience, high school students can explore career possibilities, and retirees can share their knowledge and remain active in the community. Lorraine Manary, Char-Em United Way Executive Director, believes that volunteering is an integral element of citizenship. "This United Way program is helping to harness community spirit. Volunteer Connections continues to grow and serve the communities of Charlevoix and Emmet Counties," said Manary.

If you are interested in learning more about volunteer connections, or would like help joining the site, please call the Char-Em United Way office at (231) 487-1006 or email vista@charemuitedway.org.