

Delmarva Media Group employees to lend a hand

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Delmarva Media Group employees will delve further into the community they cover by volunteering at Salisbury Urban Ministries for Make a Difference Day later this month.

Make a Difference Day is a nationwide volunteer event sponsored by USA Weekend magazine and Points of Light. Gannett, the parent company of Delmarva Media Group, which includes The Daily Times, is also a sponsor of the service day, held the fourth Saturday in October. Newman's Own also supports the event.

This is Delmarva Media Group's second year participating in Make a Difference Day, said Nikki Iovacchini, executive assistant at Delmarva Media Group. Last year, 17 employees assisted The Village of Hope with tasks including cleaning, organizing, raking leaves and staining a bench, she said. Hams and other items were also given to the residents around Christmastime, she said.

This year, on Oct. 26, company employees will assist Salisbury Urban Ministries, Iovacchini said.

"I think it's an eye-opening experience," she said.

Members of the public can also sign up to volunteer at this Make a Difference Day event on the United Way of the Lower Eastern Shore website or contact Iovacchini.

While all the details aren't set in stone yet, Salisbury Urban Ministries Executive Director Debbie Donaway said volunteers will be helping at God's Kitchen, a soup kitchen at Grace United Methodist Church in Salisbury, and replacing ceiling tiles at the Salisbury Urban Ministries office building behind the church.

The church is located at 635 E. Church St. and the office building is behind the church at 326 Barclay St.

Iovacchini said about three weeks ago, the Gannett Foundation provided a \$5,000 check to the nonprofit to purchase supplies for volunteers to use for Make a Difference Day. Any leftover funds can be used for Salisbury Urban Ministries' food pantry and prescription services, Iovacchini said.

She said the nonprofit, which also operates a Kid's Cafe after-school program and offers financial assistance to families, depends on donations and funding. And, because they don't have to spend money on labor, those funds can go to people in need.

"So to have someone to come in to actually do manual labor is such a treat," Donaway said.

TO GET INVOLVED

Find the event and sign up at <http://getconnected.unitedway4us.org/>

Learn more about Make a Difference Day at www.makeadifferenceday.com.

Call Nikki Iovacchini at 410-845-4622 or email niovacchin@dmg.gannett.com.

Call Debbie Donaway at 410-749-1563 or 443-783-7687.

Monetary donations can be sent to PO Box 1792, Salisbury, Md. 21802

About Make A Difference Day

Created by USA Weekend magazine 23 years ago, Make A Difference Day is the nation's largest day of volunteering. Each year on the fourth Saturday of October, millions of Americans act to improve the lives of others.

How can I get involved?

For ideas and resources, or to search for a project in your community, go to the Make A Difference Day website.

After you've completed your good deeds on Oct. 26, be sure to submit your project for award consideration and give your favorite charity a chance to receive a \$10,000 donation from Newman's Own.

Who makes this possible?

Delmarva Media Group, USA Weekend, Gannett, Points of Light and Newman's Own.

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Abstract (Document Summary)

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