

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Volunteers Gather to Pack 3,000 Weekend Meal Kits for Kids

[TOLEDO, Ohio] – Nearly one in every four children are considered “food-insecure” here in Lucas County and United Way of Greater Toledo (UWGT) volunteers plan to address this troubling issue by packing 3,000 weekend meal kits at their upcoming event, “United & Thankful.”

“Thanksgiving is just a week away, which can be an incredibly difficult time for children,” said Wendy Pestrue, president & CEO of UWGT.

“Thousands of kids in our community truly depend on breakfast or lunch meals they receive at school. It’s sometimes the only food they have readily-available during the week – and what happens to those hungry kids when school is out during the holidays? Where are they going to receive nutritious food?” Pestrue asked.

On Friday, November 22 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., over 500 volunteers will assemble thousands of weekend meal kits at UWGT’s downtown office, located at 424 Jackson St.

Kits will be distributed to children the following week, prior to Thanksgiving by Connecting Kids to Meals. They will contain various items, which will provide ongoing food during the long holiday weekend.

“We want to thank Whole Foods for supporting this event. Generous corporate partners and individual donors make impactful gatherings like United and Thankful possible,” said Pestrue.

At the event, volunteers will continuously funnel through UWGT’s first floor, where they will have the opportunity to pack as many weekend meal kits as they would like. After building a kit, volunteers can travel to UWGT’s rear-lot and side yard, where local food trucks will be parked for lunch. Live music, tent coverage, chairs, tables and standing heaters will also be present.

UWGT is still seeking donations and volunteers for the event. To volunteer, search United & Thankful on Eventbrite.

Given UWGT’s bulk food order – just \$10.00 can provide five full weekend meal kits to children in need. If community members would like to donate, visit UWGT on Facebook, where they are currently running an online fundraiser. Facebook has zero transaction fees, therefore, all funds collected will go to help support United & Thankful.

“United Way is proud to work with our strong partners at Connecting Kids to Meals for United and Thankful. In 2018 alone, they delivered half a million hot, nutritious meals to children in need. We are very happy to be putting on an event that helps compliment their great work in Northwest Ohio,” stated Pestrue.

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