

Corporate Volunteer Engagement

Volunteering turns a workplace campaign into something your team experiences rather than reads about. This guide covers the ways companies get involved and how to plan a project that works.

WHY VOLUNTEER TOGETHER

- It builds teams across departments in a way an off-site rarely does.
- It gives employees a direct look at the needs their gifts address.
- It supports corporate social responsibility goals with something measurable.
- It tends to lift campaign participation — people give where they have shown up.

WAYS TO ENGAGE

- **Team projects.** A group of employees takes on a hands-on project for a local nonprofit — sorting, building, packing, painting, grounds work.
- **Skills-based volunteering.** Your team lends professional expertise: finance, marketing, HR, IT, legal. Often the highest-value help a nonprofit can receive.
- **Board and committee service.** Longer-term leadership placement for senior staff who want deeper involvement.
- **Drives and collections.** Food, school supplies, coats, or hygiene items. The easiest entry point for a first-year programme.
- **Virtual and hybrid.** Remote-friendly options keep distributed teams included.

PLANNING A PROJECT

- **Start early.** Allow four to six weeks. Good projects get claimed quickly, especially during the autumn campaign season.
- **Size the group honestly.** Most sites can host 10 to 25 volunteers at once. Split larger teams across shifts or locations.



- **Confirm the details.** Date, arrival time, duration, dress code, physical requirements, parking, and who meets your team on arrival.
- **Name a lead.** One person on your side owns the logistics and the headcount.
- **Plan for weather.** Outdoor projects need a rain date agreed in advance.

MAKE IT COUNT

- Run the project during your campaign window, not separately from it.
- Take photos, with permission, and share them internally afterwards.
- Leave ten minutes to talk about it afterwards — that is what carries back to work.
- Track hours and participants so you can report the year's total alongside dollars raised.

HOW UNITED WAY HELPS

United Way of Rhode Island's Volunteer Center lists current opportunities across the state and can help match your team to a project that fits your size, skills, and schedule. Browse opportunities at volunteer.uwri.org, or contact our team to plan a custom project for your workplace.