

Volunteering can make a significant impact on our community

GORDAN THIBEDEAU • OCTOBER 19, 2009

It is hard to believe that the leaves have changed, the sprinklers have been “blown out”, and that Make A Difference Day is here. It seems that only yesterday it was the 4th of July and here we are in the middle of October.

I'm not sure how we came to call a week-long series of volunteer events from a “day” but we did.

There are literally hundreds of opportunities supporting nonprofit and faith-based organizations for individuals, families, and groups of just about any size. Many of the volunteer opportunities take just a few hours, while others may be a multi-day event. No matter your interest or skill level, there are ways in which you can make an impact here in our community.

In addition to all that is happening with Make a Difference Day, United Way is helping to recruit volunteers from across the county to support the H1N1 Flu vaccination effort.

As you might imagine it is going to take a lot of people to organize the large scale vaccination effort. Volunteers are needed to help organize, screen and intake people at vaccination clinics' that will be set up across the county.

I have the opportunity to speak with a lot of volunteers and there is one common theme with all of those conversations. That is that the volunteer gets more from the experience than they give.

I've found that to be true for me personally but it surprised me to hear that over and over again from others.

So if you haven't already done so, pick up the phone and call 2-1-1 (or 407-7066) and find out how you can get involved today. If you haven't had the opportunity to volunteer, join us and see if the experience doesn't add quality to your life!

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United Way of Larimer County is at www.uwaylc.org.