



Our July Impact



Day of Action

Don't miss MHC's Largest Volunteer Event **Friday, September 18!**

As a friendly reminder, Businesses that Pledge \$1000 or more before or by Friday, August 14, will receive recognition during our Campaign Kickoff and be listed on our volunteer T-shirts! For more information on how your business or organization can participate, please click the button below, or contact [Rebecca](mailto:rebecca@unitedwayofhcm.org) at [276-638-3946](tel:276-638-3946), x110.

Submit pledge forms via mail at P.O. Box 951, Martinsville, VA 24114, or email a copy to: rebecca@unitedwayofhcm.org or donate online at www.unitedwayofhcm.org.

[More Details](#)

Volunteer Opportunities are Open — Volunteer for your Day of Action Project!

Project listings can be found here: https://www.engagehcm.org/need/index?s=1&need_init_id=14949

Join us for the **Volunteer Breakfast** and **Campaign Kickoff** at West Piedmont Higher Education Center, located at 191 Fayette St., Martinsville, on Friday, September 18, beginning at 8:30. **Projects will begin at 10 a.m.**

If you aren't able to volunteer your time, but you'd still like to help us reach our Campaign Goal of \$500,000, you can make a donation online today!

[Make A Donation](#)

MHC Partners for Children

In July, our [MHPC staff](#) supported families by engaging them in early learning activities in both Martinsville and Henry County. On July 8, their monthly visit to the Maplewood Housing Community for Read & Play to Learn included a story, snack, and hands-on craft aimed at enhancing early literacy skills and promoting community engagement.

[Erica James](#), Early Literacy Coordinator, participated in Story Time at the Spencer Penn Centre's Kindergarten Bootcamp on July 11. This is the second Kindergarten Bootcamp held at Spencer–Penn, the first was held in June, and both were designed to assist preschoolers to prepare for the transition to kindergarten. Children practiced key school-readiness skills, such as walking in a line, getting on/off the school bus, and listening during stories. Each child was given a lunch tray to practice holding, a coat, and a personalized resource packet.

[Diane Smith](#), Family Navigator, along with [Melanie McLarty](#), Director of Early Learning Strategies, and Erica James facilitated a Circle of Parents meeting at the [Virginia Museum of Natural History](#) on July 29. During this meeting, Rosabelle Holmes from [Piedmont Community Services](#) shared insights on positive parenting. Children enjoyed a craft activity and explored the museum, which provided a supportive environment for learning and connection.

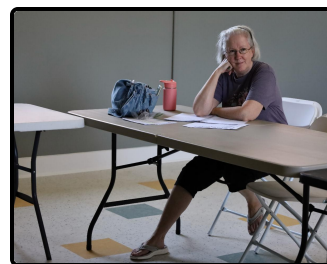




Healthy Community

Our [Healthy Hearts Learning Collaborative](#) held an informational and interactive class in their series, *Healthy Heart, Healthy Life*. The topics included and discussed were presented by Samantha Turner, MPH, RDN, CHES, owner and Lead Dietician at [OakStone Health and Nutrition](#). Participants were given Goal Setting recommendations to use in their daily life and encouraged to start small while working toward building new dietary changes.

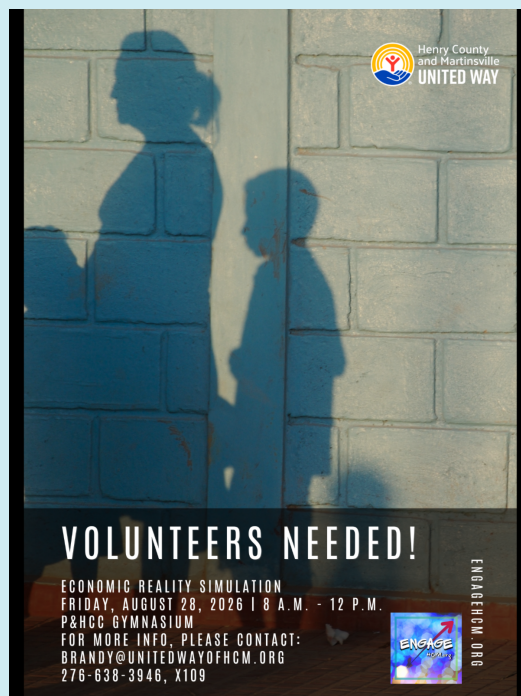
For more information on this program, please contact our CHW, [Loleader](#), at [276-403-3516](tel:276-403-3516).



Financial Security

Our THRIVE program, which stands for "**Transitioning Home, Rebuilding Independence, Valuing Earning**," had four participants complete the series in July, resulting in earned incentives to gain their independence. One participant was able to move into a new apartment, while others were able to use their incentive to purchase reliable transportation or pay off a tax bill that was affecting their credit score and garnishing wages. This unique program was held in partnership with [Piedmont Community Services](#) (PCS) Recovery Residential Program.

UWHCM will be hosting "[The Stretch: An Economic Reality Simulation](#)" on Friday, August 28, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. in P&HCC's gymnasium, and we're in need of **Volunteers**! The role positions are listed below and require multiple spots to be filled. If you or someone you know would like to participate, please scan the QR code below, or contact [Brandy Lawless](#) for more info at, [276-638-3946](tel:276-638-3946), x109.





Friday, August 28
8 AM - 12 PM
P&HCC Stone Hall

Can a family struggling financially truly manage to pay rent, keep the lights on, and provide food for themselves all in just one month? "The Stretch" immerses community members in the challenging reality of living paycheck to paycheck. We need dedicated volunteers to make this eye-opening simulation possible. Your support could make a real difference.

SIMULATION **VOLUNTEER** ROLES INCLUDE:

\$ SCHOOL TEACHER	\$ SOCIAL SERVICE CASE WORKER
\$ POLICE OFFICER	\$ MORTGAGE / RENT COLLECTOR
\$ GROCER	\$ BANK / LOAN COLLECTOR
\$ QUICK CASH MANAGER	\$ PAWN BROKER

Having personal experience in providing or accessing these resources is beneficial, but not required.

Don't miss out! **Volunteer** spaces at each station are limited—grab yours before they fill up! Follow the link or scan the QR code for more details and to sign up.

We can't wait to see you there!
https://www.engagehcm.org/need/7s16need_init_id=16186





This program is proudly facilitated by United Way of Henry County and Martinsville staff in partnership with the EngageHCM volunteer platform.

Questions? Contact Brandy Lawless at Brandy@UnitedWayofHCM.org.

AmeriCorps

This summer, we had five Service Members continue early literacy tutoring with the [Henry County Public Schools](#) summer school program, as well as the [Spencer–Penn Centre](#), and the [Martinsville–Henry County Family YMCA](#) summer program.

We also hosted two AmeriCorps VISTAs who will finish their service in the month of August. Our Eviction Reduction Coordinator, [China Tatum](#), worked directly with MaKayla, and stated that, "MaKayla has provided capacity building to our Virginia Eviction Reduction Program (VERP) through her summer here as a VISTA. She focused heavily on data entry to ensure that we are visible in the MHC Assistance Network, allowing for community collaboration between local organizations who aid all of our citizens in need."

[Brandy Lawless](#), Community Engagement Coordinator, shared that while working with her VISTA, Lauren, that she "increased United Way of Henry County and Martinsville's capacity by optimizing volunteer recruitment and training procedures in order to expand the local volunteer base, using the following two objectives:

Objective #1: Strengthen volunteer recruitment and management infrastructure by conducting outreach with new and existing partners, optimizing and enhancing online resources, and expanding the active volunteer base to include new communities.

Objective #2: Promote a better understanding of poverty by engaging local organizations and community members in a pilot poverty simulation exercise."

We are grateful to our VISTAs and wish them great success in their future endeavors.



Shown left to right, VISTAs MaKayla and Lauren.



Shown left to right, China Tatum, VISTAs MaKayla and Lauren, and Brandy Lawless.

Eastman Annual Golf Tournament

The [Eastman Annual Golf Tournament](#) will be held on **Saturday, September 26**. **Sponsorships and Team registrations are still open!**

For more information, please visit our [website](#), or contact [Rebecca](#) at [276-638-3946](tel:276-638-3946), x110.



Nonprofit Partner Workshop

In partnership with **Dan River Nonprofit Network** and **Serve Virginia**, please mark your calendars for a hands-on workshop exploring Serve365 and **Engage HCM**—powerful tools that can help your nonprofit grow its volunteer impact.

When: Wednesday, August 19, 1-2:30 p.m.

Where: West Piedmont Higher Education Center

What you'll learn:

- Create a compelling organization profile
- Post volunteer opportunities
- Recruit and manage volunteers
- Track volunteer service hours
- Connect with Virginia's statewide volunteer network

In addition to this training, you'll hear from **Alex Vanik of Serve Virginia** about exciting statewide initiatives, discover practical tips for maximizing both platforms, and take advantage of one-on-one assistance following the workshop.

Whether you're just getting started or looking to get more from these tools, you'll leave with practical strategies to strengthen your volunteer program and expand your impact.

To register, [CLICK HERE](#). **A hybrid option is available for those who cannot attend in person.**



Serve365 & EngageHCM
Nonprofit Partner Workshop
Learn how to recruit, manage, and track
volunteers on your local volunteer platform



August 19th, 2026 | 1 pm - 2:30 pm
Hybrid: WPHEC and Virtual



**Alex
Vanik**



As the Program Development
Officer for Serve Virginia, Alex
Vanik works to advance statewide
strategies around AmeriCorps and
community service through training,
convening, and innovation.



Register Now!

<https://bit.ly/4vFixU4>



434-285-2100



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These businesses supported United Way of Henry County and Martinsville at \$10,000 or more during the 2025-2026 season.



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