

## **United Way, Jefferson County to launch online volunteer platform**

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The United Way of Jefferson and Northern Walworth Counties has entered into a partnership with Jefferson County to launch a new, online volunteer platform called Get Connected to the Jefferson County area.

The website, [www.volunteermain.com](http://www.volunteermain.com), will allow for local agencies and organizations to post any volunteer needs they have and promote any fundraisers and/or events they are hosting. Community members and businesses then can search for opportunities and respond to the needs/events if they are interested.

“We often hear from local nonprofits that they struggle to find volunteers for their programs and events, and, at the same time, our office is often contacted by community members wanting to get involved but they aren’t sure how to find opportunities,” according to United Way Executive Director Megan Findlay. “That tells us we have a void in community engagement and are missing that connecting piece. We feel Get Connected is an incredible tool to fill that void.”

Findlay said the county recognized the void and also considered the benefit of the platform to all communities and decided to support the project.

“We are grateful for the partnership and feel it will only increase the overall success and impact of the site,” she said.

Although sponsored by United Way of Jefferson and North Walworth Counties and Jefferson County, the resource will be available to any local organization and any/all community members, not just those associated with sponsoring organizations.

“The overall goal is for [www.volunteermain.com](http://www.volunteermain.com) to become the main source for volunteer opportunities within Jefferson County,” Findlay said.

The program was officially launched at the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors meeting Oct. 27 with promotion to local organizations, businesses and community members to follow.

The site is active, so Findlay encourages residents to visit the site to review its benefits and tools, and register to start their community engagement process.

Benjamin Wehmeier, Jefferson County administrator, said, “This tool will elevate the capacity of local organizations and programs needing critical one-time or ongoing additional support. We are particularly impressed with this platform’s ability to facilitate corporate volunteerism and

empowering tomorrow's leaders to become more well-rounded individuals through volunteering. Launching the tool throughout the greater Jefferson County area will hopefully recruit more volunteers and organizations alike. We are excited about this partnership with United Way of Jefferson and North Walworth Counties.