



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 20, 2023**

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United Way Invites Community to ‘Get on the Bus!’ During National Volunteer Month

Southeast Missouri – April is National Volunteer Month, and United Way of Southeast Missouri has several events planned for those who are looking for the right opportunity to get involved and support the community.

Potential volunteers and anyone interested in learning more about the many organizations in the United Way network that support Southeast Missouri are invited to “Get on the Bus!” for a Live United Tour. Riders will take a bus donated by Cape Girardeau Transit Authority to visit multiple nonprofits in the United Way network in Cape Girardeau and Jackson. The two-hour tours are free, and two include lunch at a nonprofit center on the tour.

The first Live United Get on the Bus tour is scheduled on April 13 and will visit several United Way partners that serve or are located in Jackson, including the Jackson Senior Center, Jackson Food Pantry, FosterAdopt Connect, First Call For Help, and Voices for Children/CASA. The tour includes lunch at the Jackson Senior Center.

Two tours in Cape Girardeau are scheduled for April 20 and 21. Some of the organizations that riders will visit and learn more about include Aging Matters, EPIC, The Salvation Army, One City, Read to Succeed, Community Partnership, Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Adult Education and Learning Center, Boys & Girls Club, and Safe House of Southeast Missouri.

United Way also will host a Lunch & Learn on April 18th at the Cape Girardeau Public Library. People of all ages are invited to learn more about what nonprofits seek and need from board members, including time and financial commitments. Anyone who is curious about this role and any nonprofit seeking board members is encouraged to attend.

Elizabeth Shelton, Executive Director of United Way of Southeast Missouri, explains, “Many nonprofits are still recovering from the effects of COVID on finances as well as volunteers. This is an ideal time for us to showcase the lifechanging work of our funded partners and encourage support from the community. United Way asks people to give, advocate, volunteer. We hope these events during National Volunteer Month will motivate them to do all of the above!”

The Live United bus tours are free and open to everyone. The Lunch & Learn requires \$10 to cover lunch and materials. All events have limited capacity and require registration by calling the United Way office at 573-334-9634 or by visiting <https://www.unitedwayofsemo.org/volunteer-month/>, where more information and full itinerary details can be found.

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