

What is Make A Difference Day?

Make A Difference Day is the most encompassing national day of helping others — a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors. Everyone can participate. Created by USA WEEKEND Magazine, Make A Difference Day is an annual event that takes place on the fourth Saturday of every October. The next event is Saturday, October 23, 2010.

Nationally, millions have participated. Annually 3 million people care enough about their communities to volunteer on that day, accomplishing thousands of projects in hundreds of towns.

Locally, The Tribune Chronicle has coordinated projects in Trumbull and Mahoning County since 2003. In 2009, more than one thousand people volunteered working on nearly 100 projects.

What can I do?

Your project can be as large or as small as you wish! Look around your community and see what needs to be done. A **project idea generator is available at: www.makeadifferenceday.com**. You can do projects such as a coat drive, making or collecting blankets for a homeless shelter, collecting baby items for a crisis pregnancy center, clean ups at a park or vacant lot, painting or serving lunch at a

shelter or senior citizen housing complex; the choice is yours!

Second Harvest

In 2006 Make A Difference Day partnered nationally with Second Harvest Food Bank. The Tribune Chronicle partnered with Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley and has collected thousands of pounds of non-perishable food at locations in Trumbull and Mahoning County. We are continuing our partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley again in 2010 as the need is great in our communities.

Volunteers Honored

In 2003, the first year projects were coordinated by the Tribune Chronicle, USA WEEKEND honored Trumbull County Make A Difference Day with a \$10,000 award for being one of the 10 best projects in the United States that year. In 2004 Make A Difference Day Ohio chose the event as one of the 10 best projects in Ohio. The Associated Press honored the Tribune Chronicle for Make A Difference Day in 2005 as the best community service project by a newspaper. Then in 2006, Trumbull County Make A Difference Day was named the national Encore Award winner by USA WEEKEND and received another \$10,000 award.

The award checks are used to fund local Make A Difference Day projects each year. Supplies are available through a grant process.

Now what?

If you would like to participate, please e-mail Sue Shafer, Trumbull County Make A Difference Day coordinator, to receive a 2010 registration form. Return the registration form, and you've already begun!

Specially designed Make A Difference Day t-shirts will be available in mid-September. Every year there is a new design and the proceeds go back into the Make A

Difference Day grant fund.



Join us this year and Make A Difference!

