

**United Way of Southwest Georgia**

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**PRESS RELEASE  
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**“United Way of Southwest Georgia holds 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Day of Caring Event”**

**Albany, GA--**The United Way of Southwest Georgia held its 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Day of Caring event today, October 3, 2008. Day of Caring is an annual event that matches teams of local volunteers with area non-profit agencies to help out with various projects in our community that help improve the lives of others. There were more than 350 volunteers from all over Albany lending a hand for this year’s event.

The day of volunteerism and fun began with a kickoff celebration at the Albany Mall. Coffee and doughnuts were provided to get teams motivated for their day of work. Opening remarks were given by Tammy Flippo, Volunteer Albany Coordinator.

“We are offering volunteers a hands-on opportunity to give back to their community by helping local organizations complete much-needed projects that they could not undertake ordinarily because of cost and manpower constraints,” said Tammy Flippo, United Way’s Volunteer Coordinator. “We hope that each and every volunteer will see firsthand, the importance of giving back to our community.” Mrs. Flippo also thanked event sponsors: *Procter and Gamble, Colony Bank, The Albany Mall, United Hospice, Blackbeard's and B&B BBQ, Publix Supermarket, The United Way of Southwest Georgia, and Chick-Fil-A*. K-Country 104 Radio was also broadcasting from the kickoff ceremony.

During the kickoff ceremony, Michelle Bates, Volunteer Albany’s Community Service Volunteer of the Year, spoke about her experiences as a volunteer, and about the joy she receives from volunteering in our community.

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Will Davis, Volunteer Albany's Committee Co-Chair, also unveiled a name change and new logo for Volunteer Albany at the morning event. Davis announced that Volunteer Albany will now be called *The Volunteer Center of Southwest Georgia*, and the organization's services will be expanded to include the 11 surrounding counties served by the United Way of Southwest Georgia. The new logo for The Volunteer Center was shown for the first time this morning.

More than 30 volunteer teams worked on projects at 28 area nonprofit agencies, including *The Therapeutic Riding Center*; *Is Kids Inc*; the *Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia*, Camp Okitayakani; and *Albany Parks and Recreation Department*. Volunteers at *The Therapeutic Riding Center* rebuilt fences, cut grass in the riding fields, and painted. At *Is Kids Inc*, a hands-on science and technology museum for children, volunteers assembled two new museum exhibits. The Girl Scout Camp got help with clearing trails and *Albany Parks and Recreation Center* received assistance in painting two community centers as well as their gymnasium.

"Day of Caring is a great way for groups to work on team building skills." said Dwayne Myles, United Way President and CEO. "It is also a wonderful opportunity for co-workers to get to know each other outside of their normal surroundings while making a difference in our community and in the lives of their neighbors."

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United Way of Southwest Georgia improves lives and builds a stronger community by bringing together hearts, minds, and resources from across the region and by developing effective partnerships with businesses, government, and nonprofit organizations. United Way of Southwest Georgia serves Baker, Calhoun, Crisp, Dooly, Dougherty, Early, Lee, Mitchell, Randolph, Terrell, Wilcox, and Worth Counties. For more information, visit [www.unitedwayswga.org](http://www.unitedwayswga.org) or call (229) 883-6700.