

# INTRODUCING SEASON OF SHARING

What began as **Give Thanks**, a single day of service near Thanksgiving, is now evolving into **Season of Sharing**—a broader response to the growing, year-round needs of our community.

Launching at the end of October and running through the winter, Season of Sharing encourages connection through **volunteering and kindness**. Whether you're serving meals, sorting donations, or fulfilling a nonprofit's wish list, your time can make a real impact when it's needed most.

#### Visit our Season of Sharing webpage to explore:

- Seasonal Volunteer Opportunities
- Group volunteer projects available all winter
- Our Partner Wishlist with real-time nonprofit needs to run a collection drive
- The **211 Helpline** to help if you or someone you know needs food, shelter, or other assistance

#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

# What is Season of Sharing?

Season of Sharing is a volunteer campaign led by United Way of Greater Nashville that runs from late October through the winter months. It encourages community members to give their time, compassion, and kindness during a season when the need is especially high.

#### How is this different from Give Thanks?

Give Thanks was a Day of Action community event around Thanksgiving. Season of Sharing expands on that idea, giving volunteers, nonprofits, and corporate groups more time and flexibility to participate in meaningful service November 1 – January 31.

#### When does Season of Sharing begin?

Season of Sharing launches November 1 and continues through the winter season.

# Why did this shift happen?

We heard from our nonprofit and corporate partners that:

- Partner Needs: Not all agencies need food boxes; many need volunteers or specific items.
   This new approach offers flexibility and a deeper connection with each organization. The need in our community stretches far beyond one holiday.
- Corporate Flexibility: Companies can now choose opportunities that align with their impact areas, customize group size, and schedule activities at their convenience.

Season of Sharing was created in response—to provide more opportunity to give back.

## Can an organization still host a collection drive?

Yes! The wish list makes it easy to pick a category and organize a drive that directly supports a partner's needs.

- 1. Visit the wish list to see what nonprofits are needing.
- 2. Ask colleagues to bring wish list items to your office. Create a designated drop-off space.
- 3. Deliver items to the deserving organization or have them shipped.

## Can a company volunteer more than once?

Absolutely! With so many options, we welcome your team's involvement as often as you'd like.

## What about nonprofits that previously received Give Thanks boxes?

They've been informed of the shift and are excited to welcome volunteers onsite this year. Many are sharing updated volunteer opportunities and wish lists to help us continue supporting them in meaningful ways.

#### What types of volunteer opportunities are available?

Hands On volunteers meet community needs through service. On its site, you'll find hundreds of ways to volunteer. There are more than 170 nonprofits and community organizations looking for your help.

#### Opportunities include:

- Serving meals
- Sorting donations
- Tutoring students
- Wrapping gifts
- Fulfilling nonprofit wish lists
- Family-friendly and corporate group opportunities
- In-person and remote options

# How do I find or post opportunities?

Visit: https://handson.unitedwaygreaternashville.org

- Volunteers: Browse and sign up for opportunities.
- Nonprofits: Post your volunteer needs and wish lists as early as possible to get the most engagement.

# How do I sign up to volunteer?

- 1. Create an account with Hands On.
- 2. Find the volunteer opportunity that works best for your schedule and interests.

3. Click sign up! Once you are signed up, you will receive an email confirmation with details like address, parking, what to wear, etc.

#### Where do these opportunities take place?

Across the full **United Way of Greater Nashville** footprint, including Cheatham, Davidson, Dickson, Hickman, Houston, Montgomery, Robertson, Stewart, & Williamson counties

#### Is there a landing page for Season of Sharing?

Yes! <a href="https://www.unitedwaygreaternashville.org/season-of-sharing/">https://www.unitedwaygreaternashville.org/season-of-sharing/</a> Stay tuned on our social media platforms for updates.

You can also sign up to receive the Hands On Call volunteer opportunity newsletter.

# How can I help amplify Season of Sharing?

Share your volunteer experience on social media, tag us, and encourage others to get involved!

Tag @honashville and @uwnashville on Instagram or Facebook

- Use #UWGNSeasonOfSharing
- Forward volunteer links to friends, family, or coworkers to spread the word

# What if someone needs help instead?

If you or someone you know needs food, shelter, or other assistance, call **2-1-1** or visit <u>www.211.orq</u> to be connected with local resources.