



Volunteers will show they care throughout Anson County by raking leaves and washing windows during the 10th annual Day of Caring being held Saturday,

October 18th. The Day of Caring is a community-wide service project that serves as the official kickoff to the Anson County United Way campaign.

"Last year's Day of Caring was comprised of more than 200 volunteers making up 20 teams taking on 43 project sites," Ashley Rivers, Day of Caring chair said. "This year we are aiming to exceed last year's numbers."

Typical chores include cutting grass, pruning shrubs, trash pickup, window washing, and cleaning gutters at the homes of elderly and disabled citizens. Other projects include sprucing up non-profit agencies and organizations. Volunteer teams can consist of two to ten people and must pre-register so they can be given an assignment.

"The United Way Day of Caring is such a worthwhile project for our community and gives us the opportunity to help those who are less fortunate. Not only that, but I gain such a sense of self-fulfillment from volunteering and knowing that I made a difference. My colleagues, from Uwharrie Bank, and I use this day not only to give back but to build camaraderie among our team, not to mention the fun we have," said Brandis Chewning, community volunteer.

Day of Caring volunteers will gather for the 7:30 a.m. kickoff and a continental breakfast at the Wadesboro Town Square. Teams from a variety of businesses, churches and civic organizations will scatter across the county to predetermined sites. First Baptist Church of Wadesboro has partnered with United Way to complete community service projects as well as serve lunch to volunteers.

Anson County raised \$81,900 dollars through United Way of the Central Carolinas, last year. All of the money raised stays in Anson County to help fund programs such as Anson County 4-H Youth Promise, Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition, Anson County Partnership for Children, Boy Scouts of Anson County, Feed My Lambs, Girl Scouts of Anson County and HOLLA!

In conjunction with United Way's Day of Caring, canned goods are being collected for families in need. Canned goods will be distributed by Anson Crisis Ministry. Donations can be dropped off at the Anson Crisis Ministry located on North Rutherford Street in Wadesboro, the week prior to the event. There will also be collection barrels on the Square at the Kickoff on October 18. Last year, over 344 pounds of canned goods were collected.

If you would like to volunteer or are in need of services, you may register by calling Ashley Rivers at 704-848-4121. Team and Project Site Applications are available through the Anson County Chamber of Commerce and Town of Wadesboro websites: www.ansoncounty.org and www.cityofwadesboro.org. The deadline for submitting applications is Wednesday, October 1st.

Arts Council Offers New Event, An Evening for the Arts

The Anson County Arts Council's new fundraiser, An Evening for the Arts, brings an exciting evening to the Lockhart-Taylor Center on Saturday, October 4, as Ansonians and others come together to raise funds for the organization's school and community programs. Silent and live auctions of art and other wonderful items will add to the evening. One of Charlotte's premier dance bands, Plair, who entertained at the council's 2012 Art and Soul evening, will provide both background and dance music.

The Arts Council's sole mission is to enrich the lives of the people of Anson County by nurturing and supporting excellence in the arts, promoting, presenting and encouraging educational activities, and increasing the community's overall awareness of and appreciation for the arts.

The Arts Council is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit staffed by volunteers. It relies solely on memberships, donations, fundraisers, and small grants to fund its many programs in the schools and community. In 2013-14 alone, the Arts Council provided 24 programs and events for Anson County schools, including at least one art enrichment activity in every school in the county.

The Arts Council showcases the talent of local artists, craftsmen, and performers and provides venues for marketing their work through its Bowling for the Arts pottery lunch, its summer Bach's Lunches, its Christmas in November Art and Crafts sale, its Artists Receptions, and in its beautiful gallery next door to the Ansonia Theatre.

In 2013, the Anson County Chamber of Commerce awarded the Arts Council its W. Dunlap Covington Award for Community Service.

This summer a total of over 50 children attended the Arts Council's weeklong theatre workshop, Ansonia Rising Stars, and a free two-day drama workshop, GRITS: Girls Really Inspired to Shine.

Over 23,500 people have attended events at the Arts Council's Ansonia Theatre since it opened in 2011. In addition to Ansonians, the theatre and the Arts Council gallery have had visitors from 74 towns and cities and 13 different states. These visitors have positively impacted our economy by spending money at restaurants, gas stations, bed and breakfasts, motels, and other businesses.

The Arts Council has brought performers from across the United States to our county. These performers have also frequented local motels, bed and breakfasts, restaurants, gas stations, and other businesses.

The Arts Council patronizes local businesses, including plumbing, electrical, heating/cooling, grocery, cleaning service, security, security personnel, catering, hardware, lumber, and other retail establishments.

The Arts Council partners with Anson County Schools, Anson County Partnership for Children, HOLLA!, Anson County Writers' Club, Uptown Wadesboro, South Piedmont Community College, the Hampton B. Allen Library, the Wadesboro Civitan Club, Carolinas HealthCare Systems, and other local organizations to positively impact the lives of our citizens.

Won't you help support the wonderful work the Anson County Arts Council does for our county by attending An Evening for the Arts? Tickets are \$40 each until September 27. At that point the ticket price is \$50. All proceeds will be used for the Arts Council's school and community programs. Tickets can be purchased at the Arts Council (next to the Ansonia Theatre on South Rutherford Street, 704-694-4950), Lacy's, and from any Arts Council board member.

Sponsorships of the event are also available beginning at \$100, with a variety of benefits. Each sponsorship includes an Arts Council membership. Contact the Arts Council if you are interested in sponsoring this worthwhile event.

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