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New Website Offers COVID-19-friendly Ways to Help Local Nonprofits

Online tool provides Volunteers Remote, Online and Socially-Distant Alternatives

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS (April 30, 2020) – A new online tool has been introduced by United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County to help the community’s social sector respond and recover from the devastating COVID-19 pandemic.

The website, <https://saunited4good.org/>, gathers volunteer opportunities, stories and data from nonprofits, helping the community assess the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, while providing a robust online repository to help local charities that may have been significantly impacted by COVID-19 connect to volunteers.

People still want to help, even though they must practice safe social distancing and non-gathering in large crowds, at least for the foreseeable future. The site importantly collects and features in one place the COVID-19-friendly ways volunteers can engage in local nonprofits either remotely, online or in a safe socially-distant manner.

In most disasters, financial or otherwise, volunteers play a primary role in response and recovery.

COVID-19 has disrupted the social sector in a number of ways, including cancelling event fundraising, interrupting mission-delivery revenue models and impacting the safety for volunteers to engage the way they normally do to help a nonprofit to carry out its work.

“People still want to help. But in this COVID-19 era, they are just not sure how -- or where to go to find opportunities,” said Chris Martin, president and CEO of United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County. “The San Antonio United4Good website is a rallying place for nonprofits providing critical community services to engage volunteers in important and meaningful ways for today’s environment.”

The enhanced online platform, a product of Cincinnati-based Inspiring Service, a nonprofit technology provider, will help nonprofits across San Antonio and Bexar County respond quickly and will better position them for a faster recovery in the aftermath. Once coronavirus restrictions begin to subside, the site will evolve into an ongoing, comprehensive community-wide guide to volunteer engagement.

The need for volunteers will likely continue to rise as COVID-19 cases peak and decline. Demand will likely continue to increase for food distribution for children, families and the elderly; wellness phone calls to shut-ins and the disabled, blood and monetary donations, and many other services.

The newly created San Antonio United4Good website catalogues ways volunteers can best support local charities with their time, keeping health and safety in mind. Nonprofits are also making adjustments to help keep volunteers safe. Helpful things to safely do from home or while respecting social distancing in support of a nonprofit's mission include everything from drivers for food delivery, writing notes of encouragement to Boys & Girls Club kids or sharing a photo or video with essential workers.

"One bright spot of these otherwise dreary times is the civic-mindedness permeating our community," said Brandyn Moore-Rodriguez, vice president of community relations and volunteer initiatives for United Way.

"We understand that for many, these times may be uncertain and scary. But in spite of those feelings, many volunteers have still been moved to ask, 'how can I help?'" Moore-Rodriguez said. "San Antonio United4Good will help match them with projects that are significant, safe and rewarding."

About United Way

[United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County](#) focuses on preparing children for school and life, helping students graduate and succeed, strengthening the well-being of individuals and families, and providing safety net services (food, clothing, shelter, and emergency care.) United Way also operates the [2-1-1 Help Line](#) and fosters volunteerism through the [Volunteer Center at United Way](#).

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