

# It's time to make a big difference

Region offers plenty of chances to help on day to give back

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Jake Crusade, a SUNY New Paltz junior from the Finger Lakes region of New York, and Ana Bennett, a SUNY New Paltz sophomore from Kingston, organize food donated on campus on Friday as part of Make A Difference Day events. The food collected from students, faculty and staff will go to an on-campus food pantry for students. / Darryl Bautista/Poughkeepsie Journal

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Kristen Wohlgemuth, a graduate student at SUNY New Paltz, creates a sign to be used for Make A Difference Day to alert people to donate food at the Wal-Mart in Kingston. SUNY New Paltz students will collect food and participate in other projects in the area. Wohlgemuth is a co-chair for Make a Difference Day for SUNY New Paltz. / Darryl Bautista/Poughkeepsie Journal

More

Make A Difference Day — the nation’s largest day of volunteering that annually mobilizes an estimated 3 million people to perform good deeds to help improve the lives of 20 million others the fourth Saturday of October — is rapidly approaching, and it’s not too late to join the Journal or other local groups planning to participate.

“This is a chance for all Dutchess County residents to give back to their community,” said Barry Rothfeld, Poughkeepsie Journal publisher and board member of the United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region. “To help those less fortunate and to literally make a difference.”

USA Weekend magazine launched Make A Difference Day in 1992 and since its inception, more than \$2 million has been given to local nonprofits through the event’s various charitable awards. USA Weekend is owned by Gannett Co. Inc., the parent company of the Poughkeepsie Journal.

There are more than a dozen projects set for Oct. 27. Others have taken place.

### **College helps out**

SUNY New Paltz students and staff volunteered early, with events held Friday and planned for today. This is the eighth consecutive year the college has participated in Make a Difference.

The college kicked off Make a Difference Day on Friday with a canned-goods drive and a T-shirt grab sale in the Student Union Multipurpose Room. All proceeds and donations will go to Ulster County charities, agencies and service centers, said Michael Patterson, director of Student Activities and Union Services.

The college's participants will head out to a number of service sites to volunteer from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. today. New Paltz faculty, staff and students will work with such organizations as the New Paltz Youth Program, Queen's Galley, Boys & Girls Club of Kingston, New Paltz Recycling and ReUse Center and Ulster/Green ARC Joalyn House. Patterson said the college will send between five and 20 volunteers to each of at least 12 service sites selected for this year's program.

"Our participation in Make a Difference Day is dedicated to promoting a spirit of service on campus," said Patterson. "The program gives our students the opportunity to be inspired to continue their service experiences past one particular day."