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## **17<sup>th</sup> Annual United Way Day of Caring Attracts 1,100 Volunteers**

Greater Seacoast Region – 1,100 volunteers spent the day making a difference across the Greater Seacoast region Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> during the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual United Way Fall Day of Caring. For some volunteers, it was a new experience, but for one veteran team leader from Liberty Mutual, spending the day at local nonprofits is an annual – and deeply personal - affair.

Wayne Goss, Senior Release Engineer at Liberty Mutual in Dover has volunteered for United Way's Day of Caring since it began 17 years ago. When asked to reflect on the experiences that keep him coming back, Goss looked back to the Day of Caring on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

“We all arrived at the Habitat for Humanity site around 9 a.m., and I remember hearing on the radio that a plane had crashed into the World Trade Center and I thought it was just a small plane. I don't think we truly understood what was happening and began to just hammer away,” Goss said.

It wasn't until the group broke for lunch that they began to really understand what was happening. The team met and gave everyone the option to leave the site if they wanted. Everyone stayed. “We weren't sacrificing our lives, like so many did on that day, but we were sacrificing our personal lives and our time for a family who needed our help. That was a very powerfully emotional day, one that I will remember of all the Days of Caring I've done.”

This year, over 1,000 volunteers from 40 local businesses worked on 130 different projects throughout the community. “We do just about anything,” team leader Goss added. “We have dug ditches, painted walls, washed windows, spread mulch, played bingo with senior citizens, served meals, cut down trees, and built sheds. And every year, we all get together and do it again!”

The estimated value of the total volunteer time for United Way of the Greater Seacoast's 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Day of caring is \$160,958 (volunteer time value determined by Independent Sector [www.independentsector.org](http://www.independentsector.org)).

Day of Caring is sponsored by: **Platinum Level**, Liberty Mutual Group; **Gold Level**, Exeter Health Resources; **Silver Level**, Bottomline Technologies, Inc.; **Bronze Level**, FPL Energy Seabrook Station, Heinemann, Lonza Biologics, Inc., Newmarket International, Sprague Energy, and Unitil.

**PHOTOS:** A Liberty Mutual volunteer secures seating at The Player's Ring in Portsmouth.

Volunteers from Liberty Mutual beautify the playground at the Dover Children's Center.

Elana, a Liberty Mutual Volunteer makes a new friend at the Cocheco Valley Humane Society in Dover.

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*United Way of the Greater Seacoast (UWGS) is a locally governed nonprofit organization working to advance the common good by focusing on the building blocks for a good life – education, income and health. UWGS develops, supports and works in groundbreaking partnerships in the Greater Seacoast region of NH and Southern Maine to create long-lasting changes that prevent problems from happening in the first place and create opportunities for a better life for all. For more information, visit [www.uwgs.org](http://www.uwgs.org).*