



VIP: VOLUNTEERS IN POWER

FALL 2019

Log those Hours!

MLGW, its leadership and our employees strongly believe in community involvement and volunteerism. And we want you, our volunteers, to log your time spent volunteering through a new internal MLGW site.

It's time to take a little credit and kudos for the time you spend helping others by volunteering in our community. To register your volunteer hours, go to MLGW's Intranet, log in to Oracle e-Business, go to MLGW Employee Self Service and look for the Volunteer Hours link under Community Involvement in the bottom right-hand column. Check the more detailed instructions on page 6 and read JT's Spotlight article on page 4.

One of our largest charitable volunteer efforts is MLGW's United Way Campaign in the fall. In fact, it started with our participation in United Way's Day of Caring on September 6. MLGW's main campaign ran from October 21 through November 1 with all kinds of activities to raise funds and get annual pledges from our employees. We won two awards earlier this year at United Way's Best of the Best Awards for our 2018 campaign and THE Best of the Best Award for our 2017 efforts. And we met and exceeded our campaign goal last year. So get involved. There's still time to make a commitment to United Way and help our neighbors. See pages 2-3.

Don't forget to send your volunteer experiences, selfies and comments to *VIP* editor **Dan Hope**, Corporate Communications, at dhope@mlgw.org or call me at 528-4557.

MLGW Raises More Than \$43,000 for Food Bank

MLGW employees certainly "fed the need" this year as Operation Feed donations and fundraising activities hit a new all-time high for the Mid-South Food Bank.

For 2019, MLGW employees raised \$43,149 for Operation Feed – more than any other company in the Memphis area and way above our \$30,000 goal. In addition to garnering first place among large corporations, MLGW's contribution totaled 52 percent of the \$82,773 that was collected for the 2019 food drive overall! MLGW raised \$41,300 in 2018 and \$37,888 in 2017 for the agency.

"I know some people call us Memphis Light, Gas and Robbery, but I don't think they know about this part," President and CEO **J.T. Young** said during the MLGW Operation Feed Recognition program.

Organizers held the recognition program September 21 at the new Mid-South Food Bank operations on South Perkins Road. **Arnisa Price-Davis**, GIS/EAM & Materials Systems, and Vice-President and CIO **Lashell Vaughn** tied for top 2019 point giver.



*A putt-putt fundraiser enticed **Ben Hamilton**, Perf. Engrng., who tries for a hole-in-one while fellow engineer **Greg Haerr**, Perf. Engrng., watches.*



*MLGW employees by far raised the most for Operation Feed, a stunning \$43,149. The generous check was presented to **Marcia Wells** (l), Food Bank Director of Corporate & Community Engagement, at an MLGW Board meeting.*



*Community and External Affairs held a silent auction for Operation Feed facilitated by **Dawn Murphy** and **Kim Bond** that raised more than \$1,600 and was recognized with trophies for the funds raised. Pictured are **Susan Reynolds** (l), Credit Operations, and **Kim Bond** (r), Economic & Community Development.*

This year, MLGW saw 100-percent participation among 31 departments. Client Services was named the Top Area and Design, Construction and Delivery was named as the Top Department based on the number of points donated by employees. Geographic Information Systems, Enterprise Asset Management and Material Systems won first place among small areas with 39 employees or less. Residential Resource Center topped the list among medium-sized areas with 40 to 69 employees. Construction Services and Facilities won among large areas with more than 70 employees.

After the recognition program, MLGW workers toured the new \$12.9 million office and warehouse space. The Food Bank is using about 150,000 square



Two summer interns flank **Desmond Flowers** (c), Contracts Mgmt., in the Administration Building lobby as they offer prime parking spaces and meal vouchers to raise funds for Operation Feed.

feet of the building to store donated food for a network of partner agencies in 31 counties in Arkansas, Tennessee and Mississippi.

MLGW employees and departments held several fundraising events during the Division's Operation Feed campaign in June. There were silent auctions (Community Relations, Purchasing and Contracts), ice cream socials and even an Innovation Fair (Strategic Planning Innovation and Analytics) with jelly beans, golf and cupcakes! Vice President of Design, Construction and Delivery **Cliff DeBerry** served as the executive sponsor of Operation Feed, along with co-chairwomen **Liz Williams**, Client Services, and **Sharika Hollingsworth**, Treasury Management.

Day of Caring Kicks Off United Way Campaign

We really care! Just witness the efforts of our volunteers for Day of Caring. On Friday, Sept. 6, more than 60 employees from across the Division signed up to serve United Way organizations in the community for Day of Caring, the kickoff for the citywide United Way campaign each year. They were part of more than 1,600 volunteers from around the city who dig in and get their hands dirty, benefiting over 50 nonprofits with more than 100 projects all across the Mid-South.

MLGW's 2019 United Way fundraising campaign kicked off Oct. 21 and ran through Nov. 1, as employees were asked to make pledges for donations. Our campaign goal is \$665,000 and the campaign slogan is, *Serving You is What We Do: The United Way*.

This year's campaign fundraisers include an MLGW Comedy and Costume Bash at Savor Lounge held on Oct. 30, the return of the United Way/MLGW Basketball Tournament held on Nov. 2-3, and the amazing Rip the Runway Fashion Show on Dec. 8. Each area of the Division organized its own campaign meetings, activities and pledges.

This year's Day of Caring started off at the FedEx Forum Sept. 6 with festivities and celebrations before our volunteers headed out to jobsites at United Way agencies like Meritan, Grace House, and the Boys and Girls Club.

For the Boys and Girls Club, MLGW volunteers went to the



Residential Energy Services employees **Dorothea Moody** and **Beverly Phillips** shovel and landscape at Boys and Girls Club of Greater Memphis on Ross Road in Hickory Hill. In the background are **David Wright** (l), and **Wil Williams** (r).



Steering Committee members (l-r) **Bryant Hannah** and **Carla Randle** join Jessica Indingaro, Shelby County Mayor's office, and United Way President Dr. Kenneth Robinson at the United Way Campaign Kickoff in the Grizzlies Den at FedExForum.

Bernal Smith Club on Ross Road where they cleaned around campus and spread mulch (enough to fill a small football field). They removed a dead tree, cut weeds around the back of the property and cleaned out a storage room. Special thanks goes to Residential Energy Services.

At the South City Community, our workers pressure washed the building, deep cleaned carpets and picked trash up around the neighborhood. Our painters painted the living rooms and dining rooms of two houses for Grace House. For Meritan, they helped beautify homebound seniors' front yards, pulling weeds, raking leaves and laying new mulch.

You can help your community by participating and pledging. You can still turn in your United Way pledge cards – it's not too late even in November! If you have any questions, contact 2019 MLGW United Way Co-Chairs **Kevin Watkins** at kwatkins@mlgw.org and/or **Chantal Lairy** at clairy@mlgw.org.



MLGW volunteers cleaned up and landscaped at Ms. Annie's house in South Memphis, then posed for a photo with the rather happy homeowner on her porch. The project was associated with Meritan, an organization with programs benefitting seniors.



Even after many miles of bike riding for the Mid-South Transplant Foundation, MLGW Power Riders look fresh and energized. Riding for charity does that for you.

Ride for Life

MLGW's bike riding team, the MLGW Power Riders, hit the pavement early Sunday morning, June 23 in support of Ride for Life, a fundraiser for the Mid-South Transplant Foundation. Several routes of different distances were on offer, including a one-mile fun ride for the kids. Our Power Riders and many other bike riders pedaled from Memorial Park into Midtown, down Cooper Avenue in Cooper-Young where a water and refreshment station was waiting next to the railroad trestle, back out Central Avenue and Shady Grove heading east to Memorial Park and the finish line for a distance of 25 miles. The funds raised by the ride benefitted the Mid-South Transplant Foundation.



Cole McDaniel, Gas Engrng., looks ready to roll at Ride for Life's starting gate before heading toward Midtown, then back to Memorial Park.



MLGW Power Riders and volunteers gather after Ride for Life for a group photo.

Volunteer Spotlight

As You Serve... The Importance of Volunteering

By J.T. Young, MLGW President and CEO

There is no greater calling than to serve others... Volunteering to serve stands alone as the most noble of all actions you can take.

MLGW employees have a long and rich history of giving back to our community through volunteering and charitable fundraising. MLGW employees care, and this is reflected in our community involvement, our volunteerism and our major fundraising campaigns for organizations like United Way, the Food Bank and the Salvation Army. As a good corporate neighbor, our service to the community should go further than delivering electricity, gas and water.

I believe volunteering is important and helps sustain our community. We at MLGW volunteer in so many ways to help our neighbors. I've seen our employees landscaping, painting and weatherizing for United Way agencies, taking part in holiday parades to hand out energy-saving tips, greeting and engaging customers at local fairs and community events, riding bikes long distances to raise funds for area non-profits, taking part in fundraising walks, boxing up food at the Food Bank, ringing the bell or donating gifts at Christmas for the Salvation Army... The list seems endless.

For me, serving others springs largely from my upbringing and my faith. My parents demonstrated how important it was to serve; to be kind and considerate of the needs of others; to give to others with no expectations of receiving repayment. Going above and beyond what's typically expected to help others was always admired and esteemed in my family.

When I was growing up, I was in Boy Scouts for a few years. It was during this time that I was taught by volunteers to be helpful. They also taught me through their example that doing good to others was rewarding.

My wife, Deidre, also helped me to see the importance of serving in the community. She has always sought to find her place in helping our

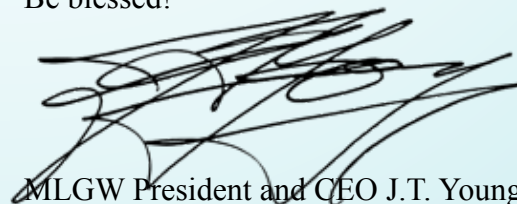
communities to be better places. Currently, we both serve as Arise2Read volunteers at LaRose Elementary School. She also serves with the Le Bonheur Children's Hospital Women's Club among other charitable activities.

Mentoring young people has been a passion of mine for a long time. Since the beginning of my career in 1983, I have been blessed to serve in a number of mentoring roles helping young people to develop life and learning skills. In addition, the Lord has allowed me to be directly involved with entities such as the United Way, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Waterfront Rescue Mission and many other service organizations whose primary goal has been to make life better for others.

Volunteering comes down to realizing that we all, at times, need help. None of us accomplish things on our own... Someone, somewhere had to help make a way for us. You can be inspired by volunteering your time, your money, your insights and your encouragement. We were created to serve...to help...to be someone's role model as they seek to reach their dreams. As we do so, we help to make ours a better community, region, state, nation and world.

MLGW is known for our service to the community. I am proud of the way MLGW volunteers serve the community. You should be proud of that legacy, too. As you serve, please remember to log your time in Oracle so that we can give the community a small glimpse of just how much you give back. And thanks for all you do in the community.

Be blessed!



MLGW President and CEO J.T. Young



J.T. Young

2019 Fall Volunteer and Fundraising Calendar

Join your co-workers and volunteer for these fun and rewarding MLGW fall volunteer and charitable events. Contact information is listed by each event. The contacts' email addresses below are active – all you have to do is click on them.

November 2019

- Salvation Army Bell Ringers – November 25 - December 20. Contact: Walgreens at 20 N Main St. Ring bell to raise funds. Contact: **Ken Mack**, Community Relations, 528-4820 or kmack@mlgw.org
- Salvation Army Adopt an Angel/Angel Tree – November 4 - December 8. Holiday toy and gift donations for children and seniors. Contact: **Anita Mills**, Employee Activities, 528-4411 or amills@mlgw.org

December 2019

- Cheer for St. Jude Memphis Marathon – December 7, 8:30 a.m. - 12 noon. We need 15-20 volunteers to cheer on St. Jude Memphis marathoners at MLGW Mile Marker 14 on Stonewall Street. Contact: **Beverly Perkins**, Community Relations, at 528-7673 or bperkins@mlgw.org
- Rip the Runway Fashion Show – Sunday, December 8, 4 p.m. Esplanade, 901 Cordova Station Ave. Fundraiser for United Way. \$40 in advance, \$45 at the door, \$50 VIP seating. Contact: **Sharika Hollingsworth**, Treasury Management, 334-8475 or shollingsworth@mlgw.org
- Salvation Army Adopt an Angel/Angel Tree – Through December 8. Holiday toy and gift donations for children and seniors. Contact: **Anita Mills**, Employee Activities, 528-4411 or amills@mlgw.org
- Beale Street Holiday Parade – Saturday, December 14, 3 p.m. Join MLGW volunteers and the Terminator truck to bring holiday cheer to our community. Contact: **Ken Mack**, Community Relations, 528-4820 or kmack@mlgw.org
- Salvation Army Bell Ringers – Through December 20. Walgreens at 20 N Main St. Ring bell to raise funds. Contact: **Ken Mack**, Community Relations, 528-4820 or kmack@mlgw.org

January 2020

- United Way Key Persons Appreciation Luncheon – Friday, January 24, 11 a.m. SCS Teaching and Learning Academy, 2485 Union Ave. Contact: **Kevin Watkins**, Performance Engineering, at 528-5451 or kwatkins@mlgw.org

Volunteer your time and give back to our community.

School Speakers Needed



You can help us with our school outreach. We always need school speakers for both this fall and next spring. MLGW Community Relations receives numerous requests for employee speakers to talk to area school students about careers, energy/water conservation, renewable energy, safety, natural gas, electric distribution and many other topics. Days and times vary. Contact **Tanya Becton**, Community Relations, at tbecton@mlgw.org or 528-4820 if you would like to volunteer.

How to Log Your Volunteer Hours in Oracle

Memphis Light, Gas and Water's motto of "Serving You Is What We Do" extends beyond providing electric, gas and water services. The Division encourages and supports participation of employees in volunteer activities with nonprofit/government organizations in the community for charitable purposes. Therefore, volunteer service has been added to the MLGW Corporate Scorecard for 2019.

Beginning in May, employees were asked to log their volunteer hours into the Oracle system. Please add any activities where you volunteered since the beginning

of 2019. This includes both MLGW organized/sanctioned events and personal/non-sanctioned volunteer events. Please refer to [HR Policy# 27-02](#) about MLGW community involvement for more clarity.

[Follow this link to find instructions regarding entering your volunteer hours in Oracle.](#)

For MLGW purposes, a volunteer is a person who performs a task without compensation or expectation of compensation beyond reimbursement at the direction and for the benefit of a non-profit/government entity for charitable purposes to benefit the community.



Volunteer Views

Photos of MLGW volunteers are viewable on your home computer or mobile device in our volunteer photo albums at [flickr.com/photos/mlgwpix/albums](https://www.flickr.com/photos/mlgwpix/albums).



Key Persons Training: United Way Key Person Training was held at the Shelby County School Teaching and Learning Academy on Friday, Oct. 11. Key people for each area are selected by their managers. Pictured, MLGW's Steering Committee prepares to induct a fresh class of Key Persons who take the United Way message to each of their departments to engage employees and appeal for pledges.



Key Persons Training: Bags of promotional materials, giveaways, etc. are part of the Key Person kits they use in their United Way presentations to their departments to encourage pledges and donations to United Way of the Mid-South.

Volunteer Views



Innovation Fair: As part of the Innovation Fair to raise funds for Op Feed, **Desmond Flowers**, Contract Mgmt.; **Kevin Watkins**, Perf. Engrng., and **Tashay Yates**, Contract Mgmt., show some fundraising incentives and the Jelly Bean Bottle for employees to guess the number of beans for a prize.



Chantal Lairy, Customer Exp. and Mkt. Analysis; **Kairy Poe**, Customer Adv. and Res; and **Desmond Flowers**, Contracts Mgmt., check out the Operation Feed Innovation Fair.



You can tell MLGW bike riders from others thanks to their snappy and colorful riding outfits. They even have safety-related Call 811 logos on their shoulders.



Ride for Life: Taking a water break outside Memphis Made brewery in Cooper-Young, **Wesley Davis**, Elec. Dist. - HHSC; **Maria Brown**, Key Accounts; and **Ken Harper**, Corp. Safety, catch their collective breath at essentially the halfway point in the Ride for Life route.

United Way: MLGW's United Way Steering Committee at the MLGW United Way Golf Tournament (l-r): **(1st row) Melissa Perez**, Water Engrng.; **Carla Randle**, Downtown Bus. Ofc; **Portia Williams**, Sys. Ops Ofc; **Derrick Smith**, Gas Transm.; **(2nd row) Bryant Hannah**, Network & Gen. Constr.; **Jameka Hearn**, CCC; **(3rd row) Latarra Gross**, Data Security; **Chantal Lairy**, Cust. Exp. & Market Analysis; **Anita Harris-Hayes**, Cust. Svc. Dispatch; **Chevita Boyd**, Storeroom 85; **(4th row) Morcellous Harris**, Res. Energy Svcs.; **Kevin Watkins**, Perf. Engrng; **Herman Kimble**, Paint & Body Shop; and **Gathion Knight**, Gas Dist. NSC.



Volunteer Views

Day of Caring: United Way of the Mid-South President and CEO Dr. Kenneth Robinson (ctr) joins MLGW volunteers to help clean up around Ms. Annie's home, a project for Meritan on Day of Caring.



Key Persons Training: Kimberly Smith (l), Machine and Welding, and Ferrantevia Willis, Transformer Shop, assemble with other United Way Key Persons from across the Division on Oct. 11 and find out there's a lot to learn about United Way and the employee pledge process at Key Person Training.

Key Persons Training: Making a special visit for a special young man – a patient at a Memphis United Way agency – is Spidey himself, **Bryant Hannah** (Steering committee member), Network General Construction NSC. The young man was rather excited to see his comic book superhero.

