

Volunteering from the heart

MATC faculty and staff participate in service projects around Ozaukee County on Valentine's Day



COPE Services' Executive Director Cecile Dunke discusses the work of her agency with the MATC volunteers.

GRAFTON — The MATC Leadership Team, United Way of Northern Ozaukee and nine community nonprofit agencies teamed up Tuesday to have a day of community service. The worthwhile projects that were undertaken included meal preparation for those living in shelters, collecting and packing up school essentials for adult GED candidates, creating and delivering Valentine cards for homebound seniors, Microsoft access training, working with parents and babies in early childhood development activities and much more.

Dr. Wilma Bonaparte, vice president of MATC Mequon Campus, said, "Today, we not only celebrate St. Valentine's Day, but we also celebrate 'MATC Day,' where over 60 of our employees performed volunteer hours with the United Way Northern Ozaukee in an effort to give back to the community. Through our words and actions, we continue to be engaged in supporting the residents of Ozaukee County, particularly those in need.

"Booker T. Washington, who lived the ideals of American education, once said, 'If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else,' which is exactly what we did today and what we hope will be the start of an ongoing tradition at the MATC-Mequon Campus," Bonaparte said.

This is the second year that MATC has sponsored a service project in the community. All full-time employees had the ability to match their passions with causes that were near and dear to their hearts. Barbara Bates-Nelson, executive director of United Way of Northern Ozaukee, said "It was a great opportunity for Ozaukee County to come together and connect people with opportunities to serve, promote civic engagement and empower people to

Photos by Mark Justesen



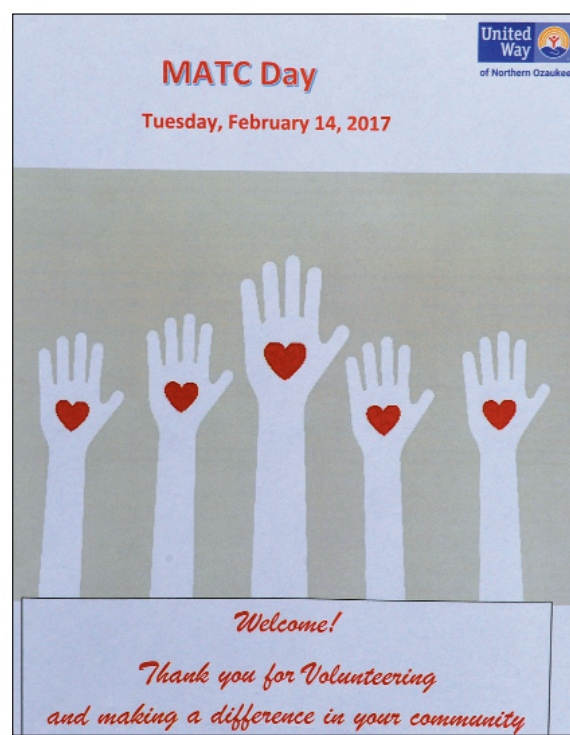
Barbara Bates-Nelson, executive director of United Way Northern Ozaukee, left, and Dr. Wilma Bonaparte, MATC campus vice president, chat with Wilmer Helm, who volunteered for Interfaith Caregivers.



Volunteers Kathleen Olson and Julie Gensrick write notes of encouragement that were included in bags of school supplies for the inmates in the Ozaukee County Jail Literacy Program.



Above, volunteer Wilmer Helm and MATC campus Vice President Wilma Bonaparte take time out for a hug. Left, Neil Verhaeghe, Jean Hoffmann and Colleen Madison assemble thank-you jars that are given to COPE Services volunteers.



Renee Rathke, in her capacity of executive director for the Family Enrichment Center, provides an overview of the agencies that call the facility home.



Volunteers Shelly Conroy, Herbert Flaig, Geoffrey Lee and Thomas Kalluvila prepare mailings for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ozaukee County's Bowl for Kids Sake, which will take place Fridays in March at Harbor Hills Recreation Center in Port Washington.

Habitat for Humanity completes 10th Ozaukee County home

Home dedication is good news for affordable housing in Ozaukee County

PORT WASHINGTON — The Neumann family will mark an important milestone in the construction of their new home — and the community is invited to join in on the fun! The home dedication begins at 1 p.m. on Sunday at the construction site at 170 N. Park St. Along with local Habitat for Humanity representatives and Thrivent Financial members, Mayor Tom Mlada will speak during a short program.

This new home is a result of Thrivent members Living Generously through the partnership between Habitat for Humanity International and Thrivent Financial, called Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity. The partnership has empowered Thrivent members and other volun-

teers to help build or repair more than 4,000 Habitat homes across the country since 2005. In addition, more than 1,000 home-building trips have taken place internationally and domestically through the Thrivent Builds Worldwide program. Thanks to the more than 2.3 million members of Thrivent Financial, and other volunteers, Thrivent Builds is able to contribute to the improvement of communities like Port Washington.

Thrivent Financial contributed half of the house costs — a total of \$45,000 — and is also engaging local volunteers who are members of Thrivent Financial, members of area churches and members of the community as a whole to donate additional funds and volunteer their time to work alongside the partner families to build these homes.

"This home is really special for us. We are delighted that Tammy and Alex will soon be living in this home built just

to meet their special needs. It is a handicap-accessible home and is our 10th completed home here in Ozaukee County. We are really proud of how our community and supporters are helping us to make a real difference in the lives of our partner families. This is the first time we have been awarded a Thrivent Builds with Habitat Home and we have been blessed with many Thrivent volunteers on this build," said Diana Eggold, Habitat for Humanity Board member.

The Neumann family is excited to finish construction of their new home. They have completed 250 hours of "sweat equity" helping to build it, a basic tenet of Habitat for Humanity. They will also repay the no-profit mortgage over a period of 30 years, illustrating Habitat for Humanity's objective to give families a "hand up" rather than a "hand out."

To learn more, visit www.thriventbuilds.com.