

**United Way of Southwest Wyoming**

**Public Service Announcement**

**To be Immediately Released**

More than 200 volunteers launched the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual United Way Helping Hands Day August 29. Over 50 improvement projects were completed for people with disabilities, the elderly and non-profit organizations. Project requests included facility repairs and renovations, beautification projects and house and yard work.

Organized by volunteers, the United Way Helping Hands Day committee members include Mary Ann Clark, Debra Hokanson, Jeff Homan and Brenda Miller. The committee works with organizations wishing to submit projects as well as recruiting volunteer teams to pick submitted projects. Local businesses sponsor the event to cover the costs of advertising, giving each volunteer a “thank-you” T-shirt as well as money for supplies.

“This has been a great year for volunteers,” said Deb Hokanson, team project coordinator for Jim Bridger Power Plant. “Jim Bridger Plant employees, both exempt and union, have stepped up and given to the community. I have been involved as a Board member of the United Way and on the Committee for Helping Hands Day and I believe we have great people who always go the extra mile. We couldn’t do this without the volunteers.”

Agency projects completed were School District No. 1 Head Start, Food Bank of Sweetwater County, Green River Co-op Preschool, Rock Springs Humane Society, YWCA Day Care Rock Springs and Green River locations, YWCA Support and Safe House, YWCA Advocate House, Youth Home, Inc., Sweetwater County Child Development Center in Rock Springs and Green River, The Cub House, Rock Springs Coat Bank, and Rock Springs Oxford House. Several elderly people and people with disabilities also received help.

Sponsors for the event included Anadarko Petroleum, Black Butte Coal, Bridger Coal, ExxonMobil LaBarge Operations, FMC, General Chemical, Halliburton, Industrial Hoist and Crane, Jim Bridger Power Plant, John Bunning Transfer, Mandros Painting, Mountainland Fire Protection, OCI, Rock Springs National Bank, Rocky Mountain Power, Simplot Phosphates, Solvay Chemicals, United Steelworkers Local #15320 and Wal-Mart. Home Depot donated materials for a project being done at the Rock Springs Humane Society.

Photo Captions:

**(Simplot Phosphates)** – Eric Schillie and Rolland Christiansen of Simplot Phosphates repair fencing at the Rock Springs Humane Society.

**(WWCC Soccer 1)** – Volunteers from the Western Wyoming Community College Women's Soccer team pause for a team photo. Front row from are Jessica Little, Alyssa Moreno, Oralia Gutierrez and Sloan Allred. Back row from left to are Darian Mochizuki, Katie Monroe and Jessica Hemelright.

**(Solvay Chemicals)** – Before starting on their project at SCSD #1 Head Start, Solvay Chemicals took a team photo. From left to right are Joe Gutierrez, Elda Reyes, Brenda Miller and Dan Miller. Solvay Chemicals completed projects at Head Start, Sweetwater County Child Development Center and the Rock Springs Oxford House.

**(Randi McClure WWCC)** – Randi McClure with the WWCC team helps to clean windows at the Green River Co-op Preschool during Helping Hands Day.

**(Ken Tiede OCI)** – Ken Tiede of OCI works on cutting some wood for a project at SCSD #1 Head Start. OCI repaired four storage sheds for Head Start just in time for the beginning of school.

**(Pam Christiansen)** – Pam Christiansen and Kerene Gust of Bridger Coal Company team pause for a picture during Helping Hands Day. Bridger Coal Company helped to repair a back porch for at the YWCA Advocate House.

**(Jerry and Ericka Hansen)** – Jerry and Erika Hansen of Jim Bridger Power Plant volunteered to help repair a disabled person's front porch.

**(Williams)** – The team from Williams and The Cub House pose for a picture during Helping Hands Day 2009. Williams helped to build shelves, paint walls and separate clothing donations for the Rock Springs Coat Bank and The Cub House. Front row from left are AnnDee Hamilton-Cooper and Kolbi Williams, both with the Cub House and Brandi Olsen with Williams. Back row from left are Mike Filicetti, Pete Torres and Richard Earl, all from Williams.

**(School District #2)** – Volunteers from School District #2 helped paint walls at the YWCA of Sweetwater County in Green River. From back to front are Chris Dean, Nancy Core, Bonnie Nielson (on knees), Jessica Demaret, Janet Weeks and Brenda Hennessy (closest).

**(Anadarko 1)** – Dave Gray (standing) and Mike Bolton from the Anadarko team helped to install shelves at the YWCA Day Care of Sweetwater County in Green River during Helping Hands Day.