

UPSers Volunteer for Fundraiser that Celebrates Cancer Survivors



UPS's Global Volunteer Month begins Sept. 12 and continues through Oct. 31. For the next few weeks, we would like to hear from you about your volunteer experiences. We want to hear how volunteering has affected you. We will post stories about what individuals and groups are doing during this time. If you'd like to share your story, please send LeDonya Derbacher an e-mail at lderbacher@ups.com.

Following is a story about the International Trade Systems Group that volunteered for the fourth year for the Ovarian Awareness of Kentucky Toast to Life Survivor Dinner Aug. 21. They volunteered more than 200 hours prior to and during the day of the event.

Toast to Life is a celebration for gynecological cancer survivors and their families. It is a night for them to put aside their worries of treatment and diagnosis and enjoy some recognition. Along with the dinner, OAK holds a silent auction, which is its biggest fundraiser.

Approximately 30 UPS volunteers work very diligently every year to make Toast to Life a success, said OAK President and Aircraft Engineering Supervisor Suzanne Caraway, who coordinated the event.

UPS Project Manager Debbie Napier said, "Volunteers from our group do several tasks during the day from making bows for the auction baskets, to creating flower arrangements for the survivors and tables, to arranging silent auction to arranging silent auction baskets in preparation for bidding. "The majority of their volunteer hours are from the day of the event. However, there are a few hours that employees put in leading up to the event to prepare. We've done this event so many times that we are getting better about planning it out ahead of time. We try to do a few things early, such as collecting ribbons, bows and organizing donations. The more we are able to do ahead of time, the more organized we are on the day of the event."

"Debbie's team has been so generous and forward-thinking for our organization and event," Caraway said. "They have hand-crafted gift certificate boards and created a special database to facilitate a smoother check-out process after the auction. Some of the employees have made their own baskets to donate to our auction. The baskets help bring in almost \$20,000 that go back into the community."

Parvathy Santhosh, an ITSG programmer, said she thinks the volunteering her group does is a great team building activity. "Volunteers often do the same job every year. I was assigned to help assemble the baskets that were auctioned off. I've done this job for several years."

"This event is a unique event because we are able to see the finished product," Napier said. "We are there from the beginning to the end. We actually get to see what our efforts do for OAK in the end and there is a sense of accomplishment."



Donations are sorted and categorized the day of the auction. They will be assembled to be displayed in one of several categories to be auctioned.



UPS volunteers sort and assemble the baskets in preparation for the OAK auction.

more information.

"Volunteering with OAK is important because it helps with the research for ovarian cancer," said Tami Caballeros, an IT associate. "I enjoy seeing the progress from start to finish."

"Without fellow UPS volunteers, OAK would have a very difficult time preparing for this event," Caraway said. "Ovarian cancer is the deadliest of all gynecological cancers and many of our young and not-so-young survivors only survive a few years from this disease. They deserve a worry-free night of recognition. I am proud to be a receiver and a part of UPS's community connections."

OAK provides support to patients and families that are battling ovarian cancer. The organization also provides education to alert the community of the symptoms and risk factors of the disease. There is no test for ovarian cancer, knowing the symptoms and listening to your body is your best defense. Visit <http://www.ovarianawarenessofky.org/> for

To find out about volunteer opportunities in the Louisville area, visit the Employee Relations or Metro United Way websites.

So far in 2009, Air Group employees have volunteered more than **101,733** hours. Logging your hours through the Neighbor to Neighbor website can help the non-profit agency for

which you volunteer qualify to apply for a grant through the UPS Foundation Grants Program.

If you have questions about logging hours on the Neighbor to Neighbor site or about volunteering, please contact Sheryl Case at 502-329-3094 or sherylcase@ups.com.

Photo's courtesy of Debbie Napier.



ITSG Lead Business Systems Analyst Bill Schmidt inspects the baskets to ensure they are presentable for the bidders.

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