

## Volunteers show their heart for Day of Caring

News - Community News

WRITTEN BY MARK JOHNSON

THURSDAY, 11 JUNE 2009 00:00

The Midwest has heart.

The Kansas City area showed it Saturday, June 6, when more than 3,000 volunteers participated in the United Way and Combined Federal Campaign's 15th annual Day of Caring at about 100 project sites throughout the region, including in the Northland.



Volunteers, who included individuals, employees from a wide range of companies and different government entities, did everything from simple home repairs and gardening to hosting outings for organizations and undertaking food drives.

For Scott Burnett of Adams Gabbert & Associates, it was a day to learn a new skill involving home repairs at the Shoal Creek Living History Museum in Hodge Park.

Burnett said with a laugh that when he first signed up to participate, he had no idea what the assigned task involved.

"Now I can say I've chinked," he said.

Chinking involves replacing loose mortar on log cabin structures. It is done on a yearly basis at Shoal Creek.

Burnett said community involvement is nothing new for Adams Gabbert & Associates, which he said participates in projects throughout the year.

At Immacolata Manor in Liberty, the needed skills were better known to the volunteers from the Department

of Homeland Security and the Best Buy Metro North store: cleaning windows, power washing residences, mulching, planting and weeding.

"It's our largest one-day effort of this kind as far as cleaning and general maintenance are concerned," said Stacie Bratcher, development director for Immacolata Manor.

Immacolata Manor has been a Day of Caring project site for many years.

United Way spokesman Ron Howard said bonds have been created through the years at Day of Caring sites, often informally, as businesses and individuals come to learn more about the groups and organizations being served.

Senior writer Mark Johnson can be reached at 781-4941 or [mjohnson@npgco.com](mailto:mjohnson@npgco.com) .