



Contact: Stacy Rounds  
Rappahannock United Way  
Community Impact Coordinator  
540-373-0041 x.303  
[srounds@rappahannockunitedway.org](mailto:srounds@rappahannockunitedway.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE LIVES IN CAROLINE COUNTY**

October 21, 2015 – Fredericksburg, VA – When your wife’s health is in question, the last thing you need weighing on your mind is whether or not an ambulance can make it up your driveway in an emergency.

Sandy Pollard, lifelong Caroline County resident, won’t have to worry about that anymore.

As part of Rappahannock United Way’s Caroline County Day of Action, the overgrown bushes blocking his driveway were cut down last week by volunteers from Rappahannock Electric Cooperative. The clear path to his house now means easier access for the emergency squad if his wife suffers additional strokes or seizures.

“It’s a big relief,” said Pollard, a Veteran who has heart problems himself. “A couple of times the rescue squad couldn’t get in without doing damage to the vehicle. They did a marvelous job. I was overjoyed. It’s been bugging me for the last 2 or 3 years.”

While Rappahannock United Way has been conducting Day of Action for community projects around the region for 22 years, a special focus on Caroline County began in 2009. Thanks to a collaborative effort between Rappahannock United Way, Rappahannock Electric Cooperative, Glory Outreach in Bowling Green, Concord Baptist Church in Ruther Glen and the Department of Social Services, several Caroline projects were completed in just one day.

“A lot of people don’t realize that we serve Caroline County,” said Janel S. Donohue, President of Rappahannock United Way. “We care about Caroline residents and wanted to have a special day for people to volunteer and improve their part of our community. Rappahannock Electric Cooperative has a really strong presence in Caroline, so we were happy to partner together to improve the lives of the Caroline residents.”

Rappahannock Electric Cooperative appreciated the smiles and thanks they received as they visited numerous sites to work on various Rappahannock United Way Day of Action projects.

“Partnering with United Way for Day of Action projects is a great opportunity for Rappahannock Electric Cooperative employees to do things that benefit the communities we serve,” said Justin Cruise, Public Relations Specialist at Rappahannock Electric Cooperative. “A guiding principle of all cooperatives is concern for the community, and it’s embraced at REC and taken seriously by our employees who love the opportunity to volunteer...Caroline County is home to a large number of REC employees and being able to assist our neighbors is just the right thing to do.”

When Caroline resident Mary Deyo got the call saying her deck would be repainted, she had just gotten out of the hospital and was delighted with the good news.

“It’s wonderful,” said Deyo, who has lived in her home for 40 years and is not able to do that type of work herself. “I was glad they came and I appreciate it so much! God has a way of figuring it out for you. He knew I needed it done and He sent someone to do it for me.”

Helping someone with a project that keeps their house from deteriorating or that allows better access to medical help is rewarding for everyone involved.

“It’s heartwarming to know for that moment that you helped someone have a better day,” said Maxie Rozell, Manager of Safety, Security and Risk Management at Rappahannock Electric Cooperative and also a member of the Rappahannock United Way Board of Directors.

“Rappahannock United Way’s Day of Action is an opportunity to see your community in a very special and caring way. When we all work together, we can get a lot of good deeds accomplished.”

Rappahannock United Way has volunteer opportunities available all year long. Visit [www.RUWVolunteer.org](http://www.RUWVolunteer.org) for details!

###