



United Way of
San Luis Obispo County



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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 8, 2010

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Make A Difference Day Returns to SLO County

San Luis Obispo, CA - On Saturday, October 24, individuals and groups in San Luis Obispo County are invited to come together in the spirit of community and volunteerism to lend a hand to local nonprofit agencies, as a part of the 12th Annual Make a Difference Day.

As one of San Luis Obispo County's largest single-day volunteer events, participants can choose from approximately 30 projects around the county, ranging from special events, environmental clean ups, to helping seniors or children. Check-in is at 9:00 a.m. in Chumash Auditorium at Cal Poly, and service projects last from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; most are located within San Luis Obispo city. Participants are provided with a complimentary continental breakfast and lunch; parking is free in the Grand Avenue parking structure on campus next to the Performing Arts Center. Volunteers are encouraged to dress comfortably, wear closed-toe shoes and bring a hat, gardening gloves, water bottle and sunscreen.

Last year over 25 Make a Difference Day projects were scheduled with organizations from Cambria to Oceano, including such projects as: assembling meals for the AIDS Support Network; gardening with the Central Coast Salmon Enhancement; cleaning at Prado Day Center; acorn collection and preparation at the Dana Adobe with the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo; and tree planting at the Cal Poly organic farm with One Cool Earth. Organizers of the event estimate volunteers performed about \$41,000 worth of work at the event in 2009. Make a Difference Day is recognized nationally and organized locally by the Community CENTER at Cal Poly and co-sponsored by United Way of San Luis Obispo County.

Individual volunteers will be able to sign up in advance by visiting www.volunteerslo.org or the morning of the event at Chumash Auditorium. Groups of employees from local businesses that would like to volunteer together may sign up by calling Horace Morana at (805) 541-1234. For more information about Make a Difference Day, contact Owen Martin at 756-5120 or cpcommunitycenter@gmail.com.

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This news release is available on the United Way of San Luis Obispo County website at
<http://www.unitedwayslo.org/News/index.html>