



# Unite & Inspire

## U&I... to make an impact!

**APR 2023 - JUN 2023 / VOL.2.2023**

### U&I Board Message

Year 2023 began on a high note for our organization with our new chapters in Dallas and Atlanta actively participating in community activities, providing valuable resources and supporting those in need. Global Volunteer month- April 23 is a special one in U&I journey with the State of Texas Governor's Award recognizing our organization for "Innovation in Volunteerism Award". The Award was presented by the Texas First Lady to our organization on April 19, 2023 during the National Volunteer Week at Governor's Mansion. On volunteer appreciation day, April 15, 2023, we recognized volunteers who have gone up and beyond in support of our mission with a presidential volunteer service award along with other special awards. Our volunteers truly make a meaningful impact! We wish all our volunteers continued success

### Access Health and U&I

Access Health and U&I partnered to launch volunteering services focused on medical needs and public health. In addition to specialized volunteering opportunities, they bring public health awareness to the cities of Richmond and Stafford.



### Governor's Award

Unite & Inspire was recognized with the prestigious "Innovation in Volunteerism Award" during the 39th Annual Governor's Volunteer Awards. The award ceremony took place in April 2023, during the Volunteer Week. The Governor's web portal quoted, "These awards acknowledge the outstanding dedication of individuals, groups, and organizations that have made remarkable contributions to Texas communities through their service and volunteer



work." U&I felt honored and inspired by this recognition.

### Community Volunteering Activities

#### Fourth of July



U&I volunteers joined hands to create heartfelt creative cards for our brave deployed troops in the US. Through Operation Gratitude, these special cards are sent in care packages to the troops, also serving as a means for the troops to keep in touch with their loved ones back home.

#### Summer Hunger Food Drive

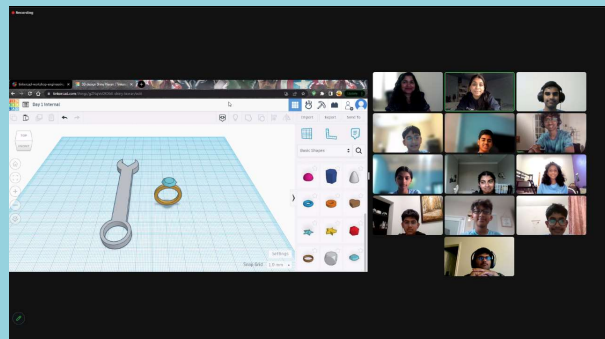


U&I in collaboration with our long standing partner CCSL Summer Hunger Food Drive (non-perishables) for the Food Pantry and provide for those in need. Our volunteers collected sealed, unopened and shelf stable items like Rice, Pasta /Spagetti, Cereal packs or boxes.

#### CCSL Clothing Drive



#### STEAM Engineering Workshop - Tinkercad



U&I hosted an essential clothing drive with our long standing partner CCSL. The drive was very successful and our U&I family participated to collect these essentials from all parts of Houston including, Pearland, Sugarland and Katy. These essential drives teach us a valuable lesson in gratitude and keep us grounded and humble, reminding us to appreciate what we have.

Our Steam team took the initiative to conduct an Engineering Workshop on TinkerCAD. The curriculum was developed by our youth leads. Our youth leads also conducted an internal training session for our dedicated volunteers, to prepare them for conducting these workshop to outside partners. These trained volunteers are now conducting the workshop in collaboration with our longstanding partner, Texana, where they are teaching TinkerCAD to special needs kids.

### Halo House Art Event

### Urban Harvest Gardening



One of the very cherished activity with our Volunteers! U&I collaborates each month with Halo House Foundation and offers weekend lunches to the blood cancer patients and their caregivers. This is accompanied by our passionate Art volunteers organizing and conducting Art activities for them that brings joy and put smiles on their faces.

U&I volunteers dedicate their weekends to work with our partners Urban Harvest. Volunteers assist in making the soil/bed, cleaning up, watering, and harvesting. The harvested produce is distributed in food banks across the city of Houston. This activity helps our youth to learn gardening skills while serving the community.

**Unite & Inspire**

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