

Day of Service Welcomed Back



For Local 26's clubs the one thing they missed the most during this past year and a half of the COVID-19 pandemic was their ability to serve their community. Volunteerism and community service are pillars on which the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus (EWMC), the Local 26 Women's Committee, RENEW, the Retirees' Club, and the Local 26 Motorcycle Club stand and the pandemic took those opportunities away as the virus simply made it too dangerous for all.

Over the past year and a half, we have learned so much about the virus, including how to safely get back to some form of normal. If this new "normal," with PPE and social distancing, is what it would take to get our Local 26 volunteers back out in the community, this amazing group of members was ready to roll up their sleeves, don their masks, and load up on hand sanitizer. And, this is exactly what they did on March 21st at the Capital Area Food Bank.

From 9 a.m.-12 p.m. about 25 members representing the clubs of Local 26 arrived at the Capital Area Food Bank in Northeast DC ready to work on behalf of the EWMC. Together they filled 1260 boxes of food to be distributed to area families in need. Those boxes filled 27 pallets!

The group also collected 100 masks and hand sanitizer for adults and children at the Foster and Adoptive Parent Advocacy Center (FAPAC). Local 26 matched that



With Open Arms



mask donation, donated 12 gallons of hand sanitizer, and delivered both to FAPAC.

In June, the EWMC, the Retirees' Club, and the Local 26 Women's Committee joined forces with the DC Housing Authority to repair outside lighting at the Greenleaf Garden public housing community in Southwest DC. The lighting was in such disrepair that it actually posed a public safety concern. If an emergency were to happen in the community, first responders would not be able to find an accurate location since the community had little to no outside lighting that worked. The members of these Local 26 clubs did trou-

ble shooting on the existing lights and repaired and replaced lighting as needed throughout the entire community.

Also in the beginning of June, a number of EWMC members canvassed throughout Virginia in support of our political allies running in Virginia's primaries. This was a great show of solidarity with labor-friendly candidates.

Looking ahead, the EWMC will once again be returning to the Capital Food Bank this fall and will be holding an open house at Potomac Gardens public housing community in Southeast DC to put a face to Local 26 and let the community know what our Union is all about. The EWMC

is also in the planning stages of a Night of Solidarity to be held at the Laurel Racetrack, and intends to build on its longstanding relationship with United Communities Against Poverty (UCAP) to participate in the EWMC's national day of service at the end of the year.

For these Local 26 members and clubs, the opportunity to volunteer has been the best sign they could have hoped for that better days are indeed ahead. Service is the lifeblood of our Local 26 clubs and they look forward to many, many more opportunities ahead to give back to the communities in which they live and work.

