



NEWS RELEASE

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Volunteer New York! Celebrates Giving Tuesday with Community Champions Networking Breakfast at Million Air

9th Annual Giving Tuesday Hat Campaign Highlights Community Unity and Action

WHITE PLAINS, NY – December 4, 2023 – [Volunteer New York!](https://www.volunteernewyork.org) proudly marked the ninth year of its Giving Tuesday Hat campaign in partnership with lohud and The Journal News with a Community Champions Networking Breakfast at Million Air in White Plains. The event showcased the true spirit of volunteerism, as attendees participated in a meaningful volunteer project, assembling 30 kits for the unhoused and under-housed, later donated to Lifting Up Westchester.

"Our partnership with Volunteer New York! to support Giving Tuesday is a testament to our own service to our community across the Hudson Valley," said Ed Forbes, Senior Director for News and Engagement at lohud and The Journal News. "Westchester and Rockland depend on essential institutions to sustain the health of our communities — supporting them through philanthropy is something we will always encourage."

Jeanette Gisbert, Executive Director at Volunteer New York!, emphasized the importance of Volunteer New York!'s mission, "Our community is full of generous individuals who give their time and talents, and nonprofits that fulfill critical needs. However, bringing them together can be challenging. For almost 75 years, Volunteer New York! has been creating the pathways that turn our communities' good intentions into action. Volunteer New York! is where our community connects."

Volunteer New York! was pleased to partner with Spectrum Designs who generously donated this year's hats. Patrick Bardsley, Co-Founder & CEO of Spectrum Designs, shared, "Our neurodiverse team was proud to produce and donate these beanies to Volunteer New York!'s Giving Tuesday campaign, each a symbol of unity and community spirit. As a local nonprofit organization, we appreciate and support the work Volunteer New York! does for the community. This hat exemplifies what can be accomplished when we work together and lift each other up."

The breakfast event, hosted by Million Air and featuring culinary delights by Air Culinaire, was a testament to the power of local businesses and community members joining forces for a common cause. Lauren Rones-Payne, General Manager of Million Air HPN, expressed her enthusiasm, "Million Air was proud to team up with Volunteer New York! on Giving Tuesday to sponsor its annual Community

Champions Breakfast. The room was filled with the true spirit of community, and it was inspiring to speak with so many other business leaders who are also passionate about local volunteerism."

[View lohud Giving Tuesday Spread](#)

[View Event Photos](#)

ABOUT VOLUNTEER NEW YORK!

Volunteer New York!'s mission is to mobilize our community to address its greatest challenges. We envision a community that is vibrant, resilient, and equitable and see volunteerism and civic engagement as important and powerful strategies to achieving this vision. Volunteer New York! is a one-stop resource devoted to increasing volunteerism in Westchester and our surrounding communities.

Last year, Volunteer New York! helped to inspire more than 35,000 volunteers to take action and coordinated more than 445,000 hours of service that supported more than 300 nonprofits and local organizations, providing a value of \$15.6 million back to our community.

ABOUT LOHUD AND THE JOURNAL NEWS

For the ninth year, lohud and The Journal News are proud to partner with our colleagues at Volunteer New York! to promote Giving Tuesday with the Volunteer Hat campaign. As ever, our goal is simple: to boost awareness of the remarkable work accomplished by non-profits across Rockland and Westchester counties and beyond. These institutions are critical to the success of our communities, and we believe they are worthy of your philanthropic support.

ABOUT MILLION AIR

Headquartered in Houston, Million Air is an award-winning network of luxury executive FBO terminals spanning four continents. Million Air has been named Best Large FBO Chain for the past twelve years, delivering genuine care and exceptional service to aircraft owners, pilots, and their distinguished guests. Million Air also provides aircraft charter, management, sales, and aircraft maintenance, as well as FBO services. To read more about Million Air, visit www.millionair.com.

ABOUT SPECTRUM DESIGNS

Spectrum Designs is a full-service custom apparel and promotional items business with a social mission: to help individuals on the Autism Spectrum lead full and productive lives through the world of work, building an inclusive workplace where all employees can thrive.

As a 501(c)(3), all proceeds support the ongoing expansion and advancement of hiring and retaining a neurodiverse workforce.

To learn more, visit SpectrumDesigns.org

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