



Allen Litten / DN-R

Shane Pitsenbarger, 31, was one of the workers from almost two dozen local businesses who participated in the annual "Day of Caring."

Workers Show They Care

Volunteers Lend Talent

By **MELVIN MASON**
Daily News-Record

Dozens of local workers turned in their pens, and business clothes for paint brushes, gardening gloves and T-shirts.

Employees of about 20 local businesses spent Wednesday volunteering as part of the United Way Of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County.

Day Of Caring volunteers assisted United Way-sponsored

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Caring

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agencies by doing several tasks, including painting, moving furniture, and landscaping.

The Day Of Caring kicks off the United Way's annual community fund-raising campaign.

Donnelly Team Rolls Up Its Sleeves

About a dozen employees from R R Donnelley & Sons spent part of Wednesday sprucing up the High Street office of Blue Ridge Legal Services.

It included repairing a deck on the building's roof, converting an old bathroom into a storage area and planting flowers.

Andy Ritchie, 40, of New Market, was happy to take part. The day gave him a chance to wear shorts and a T-shirt as well as contribute to a needy organization.

"The day was more relaxed and fast-paced," said Ritchie, fresh off of helping to clean up the front of the building.

Colleague Eugene Bare, 31, of Fulks Run, welcomed the chance to volunteer for the third time.

"It's nice to come out and do something for an organization," he said.

John Whitfield, executive director of Blue Ridge Legal Services, appreciated having more hands on deck. Had his agency not had volunteer help, fixing up the building would set the legal aid group back almost \$1,000.

"It helps us get some work done that



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Jonas Bortrager, 62, helped at Mercy House, a non-profit transitional housing shelter for homeless families with children. It serves an average of 60 families per year.

we wouldn't normally do," Whitfield said.

The volunteers also get exposed to what the legal aid group does, Whitfield added.

Important 'On So Many Levels'

Kelly Adams, a spokeswoman for the United Way, said the agencies appreciate the efforts of the volunteers and the companies who donated equipment for the jobs.

"It's important on so many levels," Adams said. "It gives the volunteers a sense of what the United Way is all about and the agencies are about."

The companies involved also get a chance for team building, she said, by working together away from their job activities.

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