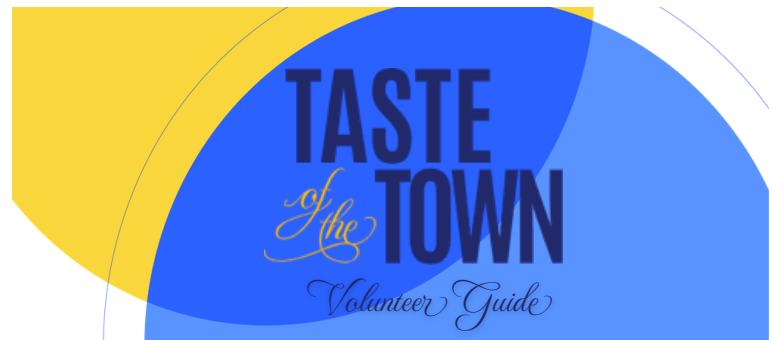


Centre County United Way is thrilled to invite you to take part in our signature annual fundraising event:

TASTE OF THE TOWN
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2026
5:00 PM - 7:30 PM

THE PENN STATER HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER



Taste of the Town is back for 2026

– and we’re building something special behind the scenes.

As Centre County United Way’s signature event, Taste of the Town brings together local restaurants, community leaders, and supporters for an evening that fuels real impact across our community. And this year, we’re starting fresh – with intention.

We’re currently recruiting a small group of dedicated volunteers to serve on two focused committees:

- Restaurant & Vendor Engagement
- Auction & Raffle Procurement

These committees will play a direct role in shaping the success of the event – building relationships with local partners, curating experiences for guests, and helping us grow event impact.

This is a great opportunity to:

- ✓ Connect with local businesses and community leaders
- ✓ Gain hands-on experience planning a large-scale fundraising event
- ✓ Be part of a collaborative, energized team making a tangible difference

About Taste of the Town

Each year, Taste of the Town brings together hundreds of community members for an evening celebrating local food, business, and philanthropy – all while raising critical funding for programs that support our neighbors. As **Centre County United Way’s largest annual fundraiser**, proceeds from this event help fund programs focused on: **Healthy Community, Youth Opportunity, Financial Security, and Community Resiliency.**

Funds raised from Taste of the Town help support our Partner Agency Network organizations and programs such as: **YSB Big Brothers Big Sisters, State College Food Bank, Park Forest Preschool, Housing Transitions Shelter Services, and CVIM Dental Care.**



How to Get Involved



We’re looking for a small group of go-getters to help bring this signature event to life – connecting with local restaurants, securing auction items, and shaping an experience that fuels real impact in our community.

This isn’t your typical volunteer role – it’s a chance to be part of the team behind the scenes. Included in following pages is a detailed description of duties and commitments.

We’ll kick things off with an initial meeting to connect, share the vision, and set our game plan. From there, committees will meet regularly (primarily virtual) as we move toward event day.

Taste of the Town Volunteer Meeting:
Wednesday, June 24, 2026
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm
Join in person or via zoom

RSVP:
Ja Nae Wian | Brand & Engagement Manager
janae@ccunitedway.org
814.238.8283 ext. 221

Thank you for considering serving as Taste of the Town 2026 Volunteer.
Your support helps strengthen programs and services that improve lives throughout Centre County every day.



Committee Structure and Expectations Guide

Purpose

Taste of the Town is one of Centre County United Way's signature fundraising events, bringing together local restaurants, businesses, and community members to support our mission. To ensure a successful and sustainable event, we are building two focused, action-oriented committees that will drive key components of the event forward.

This structure is designed to:

- Create clear roles and accountability
- Foster meaningful volunteer engagement
- Build strong community partnerships
- Ensure no single individual carries the full workload

Committee Overview

Restaurant & Vendor Engagement Committee

Goal: Secure and support a diverse, high-quality lineup of participating restaurants and vendors.

Key Responsibilities:

- Identify and recruit restaurants, caterers, and beverage vendors
- Maintain communication and relationships with participants
- Ensure vendors understand event logistics and expectations
- Assist with vendor confirmations and follow-ups
- Support day-of coordination as needed

Ideal Skills/Interests:

- Strong communication and relationship-building skills
- Comfortable with outreach (email, phone, in-person)
- Organized and responsive
- Passion for supporting local businesses

Meeting Structure

Kickoff Meeting (Hybrid):

- Overview of event goals and vision
- Committee breakout discussions
- Assignment of initial outreach lists and next steps
- Food provided for those attending in person!

What You'll Gain

- Opportunity to build relationships with local businesses community leaders
- Hands-on experience planning a large-scale fundraising event
- A chance to directly contribute to meaningful community impact
- A collaborative and engaging team experience
- The opportunity to attend and enjoy the Taste of the Town event experience

Committee Member Expectations

We are looking for engaged, reliable individuals who are excited to contribute meaningfully to this event.

General Expectations:

- Communicate proactively and consistently
- Follow through on commitments
- Collaborate respectfully with team members
- Represent CCUW professionally in the community

Time Commitment:

- Attend initial kickoff meeting (in person)
- Participate in regular committee meetings (primarily virtual)
- Complete outreach and assigned tasks between meetings

Auction & Raffle Procurement Committee

Goal: Curate an engaging and valuable selection of auction and raffle items to maximize fundraising.

Key Responsibilities:

- Solicit donations from local businesses and community partners
- Secure auction packages, experiences, and raffle items
- Track and document all secured items
- Assist with packaging and presentation of auction items
- Support event setup and execution as needed

Ideal Skills/Interests:

- Confidence in asking for donations and making connections
- Creative thinking for package development
- Attention to detail and organization
- Enthusiasm for fundraising and community impact

Ongoing Meetings:

- Brief, focused, and action-oriented
- Typically held virtually
- Frequency will increase closer to the event date

THANK YOU!

Your support helps strengthen programs and services that improve lives throughout Centre County every day.