



# VIP: VOLUNTEERS IN POWER

July/August 2016

## Putt Punt

Sometimes the stars align. Sometimes they don't. Then there's the imperfect storm.

MLGW's annual United Way Golf Tournament was scheduled for June 17, which would have been a perfectly hot day for a hot round of golf to benefit United Way. But the stars didn't align. Instead, the imperfect storm hit Memphis, and its high winds caused major damage to trees and the Division's power lines across Shelby County, causing outages to 54,000 customers.

Many of those planning to take part in the golf tourney were instead thrust into crisis mode as MLGW workers assisted by out-of-town crews worked night and day in steaming conditions to restore power to the affected parts of Shelby County. Many thanks to our crews! So, the golf tourney had to be canceled and postponed.

But never fear! We will try again to hit the links and raise funds for those in need in Memphis and Shelby County. Mark your calendars for July 22. Yours truly will be there, too, taking photos and enjoying the competition.

If you attend Plus-1 Jam or take part in our other volunteer events, send your volunteer photos, selfies or event reports to VIP editor **Dan Hope**, Communications and Public Relations, at [dhope@mlgw.org](mailto:dhope@mlgw.org) or call me at 528-4557.

## Peddler's Tour

The Tour de Peddler Bike Ride may sound a bit unfamiliar unless you realize it's a new name for Tour de Cure. Perhaps it was renamed due to the nominal proximity to the Tour for a Cure ride that happens in April. Nonetheless, the ride held Saturday, June 18 benefiting the American Diabetes Association was partly renamed because the annual fundraising bike tour started and ended at Peddler Bike Shop locations. Or maybe it just involves pedaling...

Nineteen members of MLGW's bike team signed up to ride – one of the largest contingencies yet this year. All the riders started at the Peddler Bike Shop on Walker Ave. near the University of Memphis. Riders had three choices: a two-mile loop around the U of M or longer rides: 30 miles for a ride to the Germantown Peddler store and back, or 62 miles for the ride to the Southaven Peddler, the Germantown store and back to the Walker store. The ones who did the U of M loop rode that loop three times before heading back to the Walker Peddler.

The "Sexy Sixty" riders (see photo) chose to ride the two-mile loop around the U of M three times. The other riders selected longer routes in which riders rode to either one or both of the other area Peddler Bike Shops. Whichever route they chose, it was quite a workout... for a good cause!



*A tyke on a trike's look of determination gives Marcia Mason's daughter Lyndsay Mason Lanier pause as she prepares to race her, and the kid rode two miles!*



*Riding the U of M loop, **Marcia Mason, Corp. Security**; **Rutha Griffin, HR Svcs.**; and **Mary White, Empl. Activities**, are part of the "Sexy Sixties," women who ride and are all 60 or older. Not pictured: **Lela Garlington, Comms. & PR.***



*A big wave from MLGW riders as they prepare to embark on several different Tour de Peddler routes.*



# Jam Thunders Back in May

It was a dark and stormy night... At least it was thunderous and stormy on a couple of May weekend nights causing some cancellations, but Plus-1 Jam jammed on to raise funds for MIFA's Plus-1 utility assistance program. The MLGW-sponsored music series next to the Elvis statue on Beale took a hiatus in 2015, but came back strong this spring.



MLGW's **Lillian Johnson** explains MIFA's Plus-1 program to those enjoying Plus-1 Jam.

The weather was mostly good for Plus-1 Jam's return, and crowds heading to the river for MusicFest, the BBQ Festival and 901 Fest paused for some good music and gave donations as several MLGW and MIFA volunteers worked the crowd with donation buckets each night. The Jam raised more than \$1,350 for Plus-1 over three weekends in April and May.

"That final total is great since due to weather we only got to have four days of music," said co-organizer **Marty Bond**, Rates/Reg. Affairs. "I'd like to thank all the bands and especially the volunteers, Corporate Communications, Construction Services, the Legal Department and Central Support Services for all their help to make Plus-1 Jam possible."

Participating bands donated their time to raise funds for Plus-1. Several bands featured MLGW employees such as Muddy River Blues Band, Tropix, Memphis Rock Solid, Kyle Russell, Mullins Orchestra and Fear the Rooster. The last evening featured a four-hour Grand Finale All Out Jam with guests like a talented blues guitarist from Sweden who didn't speak much English.

Special thanks goes out to our MLGW employee volunteers. It's not easy asking for donations from passersby. And thanks to all the musicians who donated their time to make Plus-1 Jam a stellar mini music festival benefitting those in need in our community.



MLGW Volunteer **Melnett Shockley**, Cashiering Ops, who brought her husband Gordon, gathers donations for Plus-1 Jam on Beale Street



Muddy River Blues Band featured (l-r) Steve "Popeye" Carter, Tony Negri, Jeff Bledsoe (hidden) and co-organizers **Steve Shepard**, Water Dist. – SSC, and **Marty Bond**.



Asking for donations ain't easy. Just ask volunteers **Lillian Johnson**, Comms. & PR, and **Judith Wrushen**, Commerc. and Industr. Cust. Care, collecting while Rock Solid performs.



**Bill Bullock**, Commerc. and Industr. Cust. Care, is a man with a horn playing with Mullins Community Orchestra for Plus-1 Jam.



# Bowling for HER

The Fifth Annual Otis Sanford “Bowl for HER” Bowl-a-Thon benefitting homeless and in-need women and children was held Saturday, April 23 at Billy Hardwick’s All Star Lanes in East Memphis. MLGW teams of four bowlers apiece competed while raising funds.

Otis Sanford, who is the Hardin Chair of Excellence at U of M and a columnist for the Commercial Appeal, has organized and coordinated the bowling tournament for the past five years. “We had six teams in the Bowl-a-Thon, and we raised \$1,465 for Bowl for HER (Her Faith Ministries),” says **Mary White**, Employee Activities and a bowling team captain.

The tournament gives out first, second and third place Team and Individual prizes, and MLGW had two teams that placed in the Team category. In second place was the team captained by **Greg Bohanon**, Gas Dist. - NSC, who recently passed away, and included **J.W. Roby** and **Darwin Whaley**, Gas Dist. - NSC, and Barry Boone. This article is dedicated to Greg’s memory. He was an avid bowler and participated in Bowl-a-Thon fundraisers regularly. He will be greatly missed...

Taking third place in the Team category was the team captained by **Leon Rogers**, Elec. Dist. Engrng., which included Dan Doole, Donnie Doole and Justin Williams. A member of Leon’s team, Justin Williams, also won Top Bowler. Everyone, including Otis, was having a very good time bowling for our community to support Her Faith Ministries. *(More photos in Volunteer Views on page 8.)*



MLGW’s **Mary White** and Bowl for HER organizer **Otis Sanford**



MLGW bowlers (l-r) **Aimee Gates**, Builder Svcs.; **Marcia Mason**, Corp. Security; **Daphne Winston**, N. Community Ofc.; and **Angel Boyd-Ingram**, Corp. Security, enjoy Bowling for HER.



The MLGW team placing second overall was led by the late **Greg Bohannon** (l) and included (l-r) **J.W. Roby**, **Darwin Whaley** and **Barry Boone**.



Placing third overall was **Leon Rogers’** team featuring (l-r) **Donnie Doole**, **Leon**, **Justin Williams** and **Dan Doole**.



**Dianna Patterson**, N. Community Ofc., exhibits that focused look one needs when rolling a heavy ball down a wooden alley trying to hit tenpins.

# Volunteer Spotlight

## From Keys to Steering: Jackie Williams

Keys get a vehicle started, but steering guides it through a successful journey. So when **Jackie Williams** started as a Key Person early on, little did she know that she would soon be helping to steer.

Jackie started at MLGW in September 2012 in Transformer and Electric Motor at Central Shops where she works in the supervisor's office. "I've been with the company for four years, and by volunteering I have met some pretty awesome people at MLGW," Jackie says. "During my time with the company I have evolved tremendously."

Jackie started volunteering at MLGW a month after she began working for the Division. "My supervisor at the time asked if I'd be interested in being a Key Person for United Way," Jackie recalls. "At Key Person Training, I saw how dedicated everyone was, and it was fun. I thought, 'I want to be part of this.'" One thing led to another...

"In the four years I've been here, I have been involved in many volunteer events such as career days and science fairs (at local schools), MLGW's Helping Hands, Operation Feed, Sisterhood Showcase, Southern Women's Show, Delta Fair, Africa in April and the Steering Committee," says Jackie. A year after being asked to be a United Way Key Person, Jackie was asked to serve on MLGW's United Way Steering Committee. She's been on the committee for three years.

"The main volunteer effort for me was being on the United Way Steering Committee," Jackie says. "One of my coworkers was asked to be on the committee and told me how it will give you a better opportunity to help people in need. I wanted to be a part of helping to improve someone's life."

Jackie's favorite MLGW volunteer projects are career days where she talks to schoolchildren in third to fifth grades. "I love career days!" she enthuses. "It's a great pleasure to speak to children about the importance of staying in school, having an education and staying focused on their career goals. They will tell you about



*Jackie Williams*

their dreams to be a police officer, fireman or teacher. I even had one tell me that his goal is to be the President of the United States. Wow, what an inspiration! We have to pave the way for our children in a positive way in order for them to turn those dreams into realities. The energy you get from talking to these kids makes you want to do more."

Jackie also talks to the kids about safety. Since she works in the Transformer Shop, she can tell them about that green box in their neighborhood and show video. "Jump on it and play on it?

NO!" Jackie emphasizes. "I tell them that green box does it all, but a transformer is not a toy." She also volunteers to help at schools' science days.

Jackie has also been a key person for MLGW's Operation Feed campaign for three years. "Again, I was asked, 'Will you do it?'" she recalls. "Sure! It was mostly asking for donations. But what was really interesting was the tour of the Food Bank, meeting the workers there, and seeing how it's like a store where people come in and shop for what they need. There was tons of stuff!"

But being part of the United Way Steering Committee seems to have captured Jackie's heart. "My United Way team? I love it!" she gushes. "It's like a family. We help each other out. It's awesome! I just love my United Way group."

"I like challenges," Jackie says. "Challenge is motivation. Talking to people? I have no problem. We go around to different areas, talk to crews before they go out – sometimes as early as 5-6 a.m. The biggest group was about 90 meter readers, and I enjoyed talking to the engineers at Summer Trees. They're so engaging, they laughed at our jokes. That made it fun."

"During my time on the Steering Committee, we visited Knowledge Quest, an agency struggling with providing children's needs in their after school program," Jackie recalls. "They needed school supplies, computers, even



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT From Keys to Steering: Jackie Williams

food. Their story inspired us tremendously. When we got back, we shared their story with others. We decided to come together and present the agency with a check to help them provide some supplies and stability to the children. The Steering Committee and Key Persons gave personal donations to help. We called the agency director on the phone, put the call on speaker and told her what we wanted to do in order help the children. She was very thankful. Words could not express the gratitude the director had for MLGW.”

For the past four years, Jackie has coordinated the Build & Grow Clinic for 75 kids at Lowe’s Home Improvement, held twice a month. “It’s an amazing feeling to see how the kids enjoy spending an hour building a special project,” she says. Jackie’s also a licensed Zumba instructor. She’ll begin teaching classes in the fall, and hopes to participate in a St. Jude Zumbathon fundraiser.

Advice to volunteers? “Have fun,” says Jackie. “Dedicating time to volunteering can make a difference in the lives of people in need. Volunteering allows you to connect to the community and make it a better place.”

“I’m glad to be a part of improving someone’s life and at the same transforming my life,” Jackie says. “It’s a rewarding experience to make a difference in the community and meet people. Being a volunteer can strengthen your ties to the community. Volunteering is serving a cause greater than one’s self. It gives me an opportunity to provide hope and balance to others in need.”



*Jackie and Kevin Watkins, 2014 MLGW United Way campaign chair*

## Volunteer Events Calendar

Join your co-workers and volunteer for these fun and rewarding MLGW volunteer events. Contact information is listed by each event. The contacts’ email addresses below are active – all you have to do is click on them.

### July 2016

- MLGW/United Way Charity Golf Tournament (rescheduled) – July 22, 11 a.m., Glen Eagle Golf Course, Millington. Contact: **Ryan Groves**, Bus. Process Engrng., [rgroves@mlgw.org](mailto:rgroves@mlgw.org) or **Robbie Gaia**, Revenue Prot., [rgaia@mlgw.org](mailto:rgaia@mlgw.org)

### August 2016

- MLGW Neighborhood Leaders Conference – August 12, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. MLGW University, 4949 Raleigh-LaGrange Rd. Contact: **Beverly Perkins**, Communications and PR, 528-4821 or [commrelations@mlgw.org](mailto:commrelations@mlgw.org)
- Energizing Your Heart Walk – August 19, 9:30 a.m. Admin. Bldg., other MLGW facilities. Contact: **Mary White**, Employee Activities, 528-4245 or [mlwhite@mlgw.org](mailto:mlwhite@mlgw.org)

### September 2016

- Delta Fair – September 2-16, various times. Agricenter International. Contact: **Stacey Greenberg**, Communications and PR, 528-4821 or [commrelations@mlgw.org](mailto:commrelations@mlgw.org)

*Volunteer your time and give back to our community.*

# Volunteer Events Calendar

## September 2016 (continued)

- 42nd Annual WLOK Stone Soul Picnic – September 3. Levitt Shell in Overton Park. Contact: **Stacey Greenberg**, Communications and PR, 528-4821 or [commrelations@mlgw.org](mailto:commrelations@mlgw.org)
- United Way Day of Caring – Friday, September 16. Kroc Center Kickoff, 8 a.m. Volunteer project location TBA. Contact: **Juanita Ford**, Environ. Engrng., 528-4433 or [jford@mlgw.org](mailto:jford@mlgw.org) or **Sharika Hollingsworth**, Treasury Mgmt. Mgr's Ofc., 528-4156 or [shollingsworth@mlgw.org](mailto:shollingsworth@mlgw.org)
- Energizing Your Heart Walk – September 16, 9:30 a.m. Admin. Bldg., other MLGW facilities. Contact: **Mary White**, Employee Activities, 528-4245 or [mlwhite@mlgw.org](mailto:mlwhite@mlgw.org)
- American Diabetes Association's Step Out Walk – Saturday, September 17. Memphis Botanical Gardens. Contact: **Mary White**, Employee Activities, 528-4245 or [mlwhite@mlgw.org](mailto:mlwhite@mlgw.org)



## LaRose Career Day

Always thinking about what's best for their students, LaRose Elementary School officials invited MLGW President and CEO **Jerry Collins Jr.** to come and talk to their fifth grade students for Career Day on Friday, May 20. LaRose's students listened intently as Mr. Collins gave advice on staying in school and learning about science and technology to gain the skills necessary to work at MLGW. The students had some wonderfully intuitive questions. There may be some future Division employees learning at LaRose.

## Bartlett's Day of Engineering

Middle School students from Bartlett City Schools came together in May on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> for eDay (short for Engineering Day) to participate in a variety of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) related competitions and activities.

"I represented the JEPE at the event and presented information about MLGW's A-Blazing Solar Car Race to the students," says **Kerry Roy**, Environmental Engrng. and 2016 JEPE president. "I discussed the engineering design process and pertinent STEM topics such as solar power, friction and energy transmission. I also brought two model solar cars from last year's race so the students could see how these topics impacted the vehicles and their designs. It was a great event!"

The event was such a success that the Commercial Appeal did a story:

<http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/suburbs/bartlett/bartlett-kids-put-stem-skills-to-use-on-eday-32a8174b-2b9b-7270-e053-010007fd20c-379478001.html>. Apparently, Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> was a very lucky day for some stellar students in Bartlett.





# Volunteer Views

More recent photos of MLGW volunteers will be posted soon in albums on MLGW's Intranet under "Corporate Fast Links" and "MLGW Volunteer News" on the pull-down menu. Or you can use your home computer or mobile device to view photo albums at [www.flickr.com/photos/mlgwpix/albums](http://www.flickr.com/photos/mlgwpix/albums).)



**I Scream for Ice Cream:** MLGW's Purchasing department kicked off the Operation Feed campaign with frozen treats in the Administration Bldg. lobby June 27-29. Dishing out tasty frozen treats for the Ice Cream Social are **Janet Hoard** and **Barbara Weatherspoon**, Purchasing.



**We All Scream for Ice Cream:** MLGW's Purchasing department's Operation Feed campaign kickoff featured frozen treats. Enjoying the Ice Cream Social are **Sharika Hollingsworth** and **Terrell Davis**, Treasury Mgmt., and **Yvette Brown**, Payroll.



**Juneteenth:** Staffing the first volunteer shift for MLGW's info booth at the Juneteenth Festival in Church Park near Beale Street on June 17 are **Tammy Beeñe**, Telecom. Engrng., and **LaQuita Wade**, Gas Engrng./Oper. Mgr's Ofc.



**Juneteenth:** **Anita Harris Hayes**, CSFO Service Dispatching, gets help working the MLGW booth from her 12-year-old granddaughter, **Chandler Harris**, during the Juneteenth Festival in Robert Church Park.



**Showcasing Sisterhood:** MLGW volunteers (l-r) **Andre Mhoon**, Meter Reading, and **Edward Boone** and **Clifton Ford**, Elec. Meter, staff an info booth at the annual Sisterhood Showcase at Cook Convention Center on Saturday, June 11.



# Volunteer Views

## Kidney Walk

MLGW walkers were out in force for the Kidney Walk on Saturday, June 18, walking around the picturesque Rhodes College campus to benefit the National Kidney Foundation. Pictured are **Brian Nichols**, Cust. Svc. - BSC; **Rutha Griffin**, HR Svcs.; **Marsha Mason**, Corp. Security; **Clifton Ford**, Elec. Meter; **Natalie Yates**, Corp. Comms.; Maxwell Langford and his father **Wali Langford**, Building Constr. and Maint.; **Mary White**, Employee Activities; and **Thomas Maslowski**, Property Mgmt. Survey.



**HER Bowling:** MLGW team members love each other! **Dianna Patterson**; **Teresa Harper**, N. Comm. Ofc.; **Yvonne Perry**, Lamar Comm. Ofc.; and **Rose Herron**, N. Comm. Ofc., are having a great time Bowling for HER.



**HER Bowling:** **Marcia Mason**, Corp. Security, shows grit and determination as she prepares to bowl a strike at the Bowl for HER Bowl-a-Thon. And she hit it!



**Motorcycles for Plus-1:** Despite being rained out on Beale the same night Plus-1 Jam was rained out, the #1 Stunnas Motorcycle Club still contributed to Plus-1. The National Rally attracted club members from as far away as Las Vegas. All were pleased to contribute to our most worthy cause. On the left in the red shirt holding their donation check for \$200 to Plus-1 is **Sebastian Marion**, Purchasing.



# Volunteer Views



**Plus-1 Jamming:** Jamming at the Plus-1 Jam Grand Finale All Out Jam are MLGW musicians **Marty Bond**, Rates/Reg. Affairs, and **Dan Hope**, Comms. and PR and VIP editor.



**Plus-1 Jamming:** MIFA volunteers Shawn Graves and his fiancée Elda Pando helped gather donations at Plus-1 Jam on Beale Street. They are now married.



**Tour de Peddler:** Tony Rosser, Corporate Security, is up front ready to start while (l-r) **Brandon Dent**, Subst. Transm. Engrng.; **Richard Finnie**, Empl. Dev.; and **Markus Holt**, Subst. Transm. Engrng., prepare to join him.



**Plus-1 Jamming:** Delivering the mail? The Letter Carriers are a band of U.S. Postal Service employees who love to play music, especially for Plus-1 Jam.



**Plus-1 Jamming:** Posing after Plus-1 Jam's Grand Finale All Out Jam are musicians (l-r, back row) **Dan Hope**, Comms. and PR; **Marty Bond**, Rates/Reg. Affairs; a guitarist named Steen Slideman from Sweden; Steve "Popeye" Carter; and **Steve Shepard**, Water Dist. - SSC; and (front row, l-r) Tony Negri and Jeff Bledsoe.