

# Taking 'Action'

*Area non-profits get facelift thanks to assembly of volunteers*

More than 100 area residents turned out last week to improve their communities by giving back.

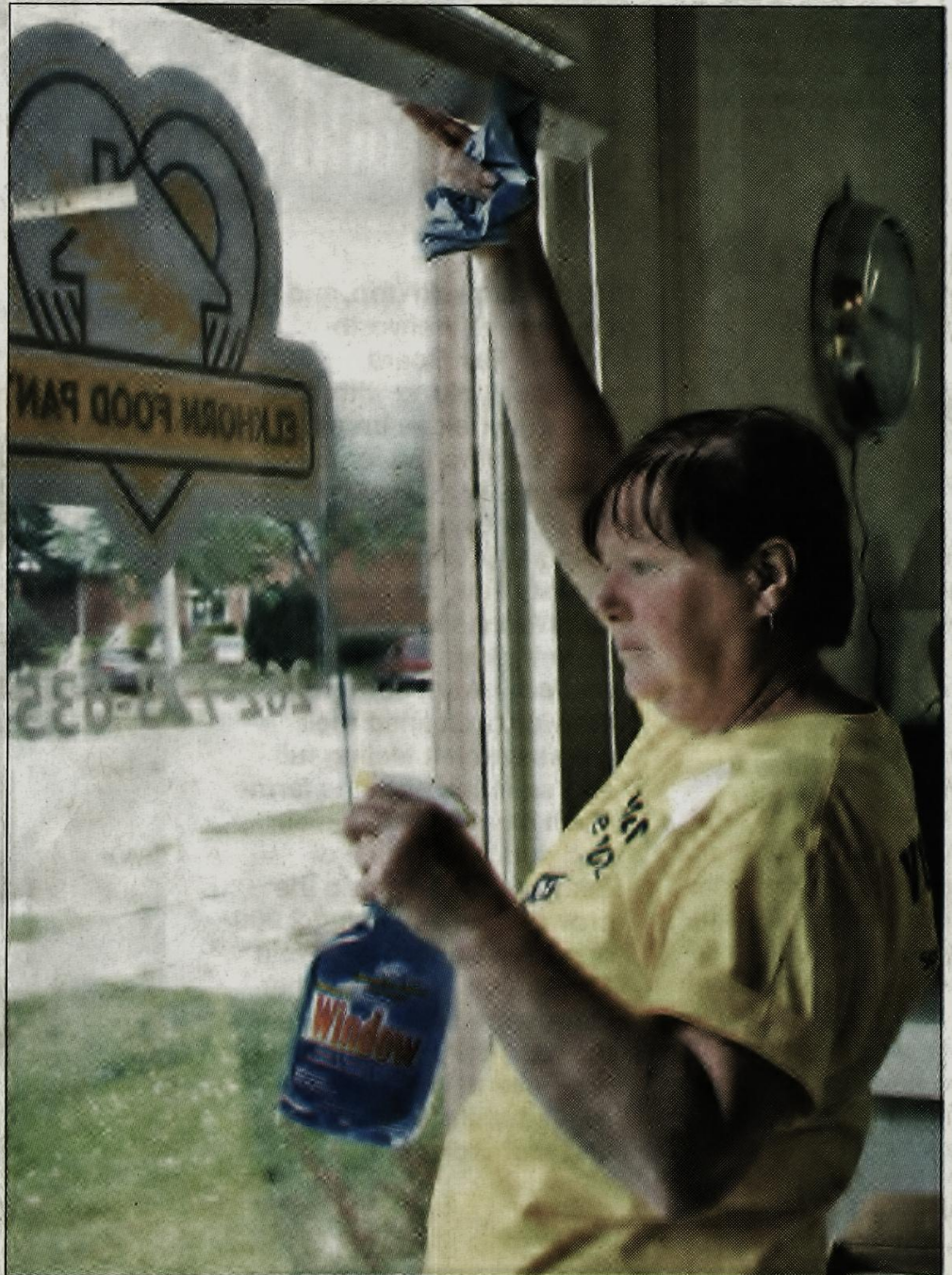
The first annual Walworth County Day of Action on June 21, attracted 120 volunteers who completed a variety of jobs – from clearing trails at Big Foot State Beach Park in Lake Geneva to painting the kitchen at Twin Oaks Shelter for the Homeless in Darien.

"People from all walks of life showed up at the Government Center to register for a day of service to area nonprofit agencies," said Colleen Lesniak, Walworth County Volunteer Coordinator. The event was a collaborated effort between United Way, Volunteer Connection and Walworth County Volunteer Services.

The day's theme was "Neighbors helping neighbors," Lesniak said.

Those who came out to selflessly serve completed the following projects:

- landscaping and newly painted bleachers at SMILES (Special Methods in Learning Equestrian Skills);
- a freshly painted kitchen at Twin Oaks
- mulching at Lakeland Health Care Center
- eighteen busses washed inside and out at VIP Services, Inc.



BRENDA PEREYEA Elkhorn Independent

**Jo Hart of Elkhorn wipes up every last streak on the window of the Elkhorn Food Pantry as part of her volunteer work with a crew from Gateway Technical College, during the county-wide Day of Action held last Thursday.**

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BRENDA PERYEA *Elkhorn Independent*

**Danielle Delahunty of Crystal Lake, Ill., spends some of her volunteer time painting Dana Van der Wielen's nails at Lakeland Health Care Center. The Day of Action event was hosted by The United Way of Walworth County, Volunteer Connection and the Walworth County Volunteer Services office.**

## • **Day of Action** (Continued from front page)

- trails at Big Foot State Beach Park cleared
- windows and floors washed at Elkhorn Food Pantry
- residents at Lakeland Health Care Center were treated to a spa day
- Community Action's playground was cleaned and landscaping completed
- a fresh coat of paint at Delavan Food Pantry's

bathroom, and

- general landscaping at Inspiration Ministries in Walworth.

The site supervisors were very pleased with the results, Lesniak said.

"It was a terrific idea putting people in touch with others who needed their help," said Bob Drefs of the Delavan Food Pantry.

John Hembrook of Twin

Oaks said he was truly grateful to have the shelter's kitchen painted since it had been a number of years since it last got a fresh coat.

In addition to the volunteers, Lesniak said business sponsors helped to make the event a success. They included Mercy Health System, which provided T-shirts for all volunteers, Grand Geneva provided each participant

with a box lunch, Ace Hardware provided work gloves and Culligan provided bottled water.

Groups of volunteers came from Target, Grand Geneva, Mercy and Williams Bay School District, Master Gardeners, Linn Presbyterian Church, Southern Lakes Evangelical Church, Mt. Zion Church and University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.