


Team Building Program



We offer an amazing opportunity for your organization to give back, to those in need in our community, while gaining a rewarding team building experience.

Our Mission:

We restore hope by transforming empty spaces into homes.

Our Vision:

To be a sustainable organization responsive to community need.

UPward Design for Life (UDFL) is a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization that was founded by Dionne Williamson who began operations, in her home garage, in January 2018. Dionne created UPward Design for Life because of her appreciation for the impact interior design can have on one's mental well-being and her love of community service.

With gently used donations collected from our community, we furnish homes and transform lives for those in need, in Erie & Niagara Counties. We serve:

- Domestic violence survivors
- Individuals who are refugees
- Young adults aging out of foster care
- Individuals transitioning out of homeless
- Individuals with developmental or physical disabilities and mental disorders

Since 2018:

- Over 92 empty spaces have been transformed into homes
- Over 239 lives have been positively impacted
- 87% of households served were female head of households

We offer a unique solution in that we are the only non-profit organization in New York State specializing in the service we provide. We have approximately 30 community partners who refer clients to us, such as Child & Family Services, Hispanics United of Buffalo & Best Self Behavioral Health.

Client testimonial:

"This apartment is stunning. So beautiful and inspiring, thank you again for such a gorgeous interior design. There are no words to express how much it fills my soul with hope. It is confirmation that God recognized my prayers and my deep desire to have a peaceful environment where I can use all my gifts to help others and advance my personal goals. It is a long way from taking a bus filled with angst in search of a great escape. I fled with nothing. Thank you so much for being the vessel for hope and dignity." -WB

About Our Team Building Program

We have a strategic goal to serve 100 households annually by 2027. With limited financial resources and staff, we are only able to serve 20-24 households annually, so we have a waiting list that is 6-8 months long.

Your participation in our team building program allows us the ability to:

- Receive the financial support to continue advancing our much-needed mission
- Increase the number of furniture installation projects per month and reduce the waiting time
- Give your organization the opportunity to step into the lives of those we serve
- Provide your organization with the chance to work together in creating a safe, comfortable and fully furnished home, for a family that is making a fresh start in life



Here's what past participants had to say:

Ingram Micro:

"It's not often that you get to be a part of something as inspiring as this. I would recommend to anyone and everyone to get involved in this organization!" - Emily S.

"Being involved as a team was amazing! Not only did we all have an great day doing something fun with our colleagues, but we were able to make an impact in the process. UPward Design for Life is absolutely changing lives and it was such a great experience to be a part of that." - Courtney M.

AP Professional of WNY:

"Two goals of mine (always) are being a good human and helping others. That being said, it just felt fitting to help with UPward Design for Life. It brings me pure joy knowing that the time I can spend helping someone, can bring a smile to their faces and that they appreciated the effort we all put in. I feel the finished product turned out great and the family really enjoyed the new setup!" - Justin G.

About Our Team Building Program cont.



- Teams can consist of up to eight (8) people.
- Up to two (2) team members can participate in the initial client home visit, to see the space and take pictures and measurements. Home visit appointments are scheduled based on the client's availability. A UDFL team member will be present.
- Program participants will schedule date/time to visit the UDFL donation center and select appropriate furnishings from our inventory of gently used donated items, for the client's home. Teams are welcome to purchase new items, if desired. Teams may schedule multiple visits to the donation center, if needed.
- Team members will conduct the furniture installation project which involves loading selected furniture onto a moving truck, transporting items to the client's home, then unloading and finally moving furniture into the home. UDFL provides the moving truck and driver. Projects usually take 3-5 hours depending on size and condition of the property. UDFL provides food and beverages for the team.
- A virtual meeting will be scheduled with a UDFL staff member and team participants, in order to share safety information before starting the program.

Ready to experience our team building program?

Our team building program participation fee is \$3,000. The program fee not only offers your staff the opportunity to work as a cohesive unit, boost morale, serve our community, and have fun, but also to support the work of UDFL, as we aim to serve 100 families annually by 2027.

As a complimentary offering to your package, we are providing a Communication Team Building session, featuring "The Birds Personality Assessment" – a delightful tool for unveiling personalities, communication styles, and behaviors. Immerse your team in a transformative experience as our 90-minute Communication Team Building Workshop combines interactive exercises, discussions, trust-building, and communication barrier-breaking techniques to foster enhanced understanding and collaboration. This team building session will be conducted by an experienced coach and facilitator, Melonya Johnson owner of BSMART Coaching.

Note:

Maximum number of participants: 8

Team building session will be conducted onsite at company's location.

Please contact Dionne Williamson, Executive Director & Founder at support@upwarddesignforlife.org or 716-698-7966, with questions or to sign-up today!

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"Thank you, and I look forward to serving our community with you!"

Dionne W.