

# ECL FAQ



**UNITED WAY**

**Emerging Community Leaders**

*Connect. Serve. Lead.*

## **1. What is ECL?**

Emerging Community Leaders is a program designed for young professionals in Champaign County with an interest in community service. ECL includes advancement seminars, volunteer opportunities and networking activities. There is no cost to participate in this year-long program.

## **2. What is required?**

ECL class members must attend at least **two** of the three advancement seminars and complete a minimum of **10 hours** of volunteer service. The volunteer service may be completed as part of ECL group activities as planned throughout the year. These hours may also be individually completed through a class member's own volunteer activities as long as they are reported. Information on additional volunteer opportunities will be provided on a monthly basis.

## **3. How are volunteer hours tracked and recorded?**

ECL class members are responsible to report all volunteer hours to United Way staff. An online form is provided for this purpose. All volunteer hours should be reported, not just those required, as the total number of hours is celebrated and shared with the community, demonstrating the impact of the ECL class.

## **4. What is the time commitment?**

The ECL program kicks off in March and concludes with a graduation celebration the following January. During this course of time, there will be monthly activities. Please see class calendar for more details.

## **5. When will I complete the program?**

Although the graduation celebration takes place in January, ECL alumni continue to make a difference through volunteer work and professional development seminars. ECL alums also further their involvement by becoming United Way donors and by serving on various community committees and boards.

## **6. How will I find out about events?**

A calendar of events is provided at the beginning of the ECL year. Updates are provided via email from United Way of Champaign County. For additional updates, join the facebook group for United Way of Champaign County Emerging Community Leaders.

## **7. Can I invite my friends?**

The recruiting period is open from January through March each year. New classes for ECL kick off in March. If anyone is interested in the program outside of those dates, their names will be added to a recruiting list for the following year.

## **8. What is United Way of Champaign County and how does ECL fit in?**

The mission of United Way is to provide leadership in the mobilization of resources to meet human care needs in Champaign County. This occurs primarily through fundraising, but also by mobilizing volunteers. ECL helps to identify young professionals who aspire to give, advocate and volunteer on behalf of those in need right here in their own community, supporting the mission of United Way.

## **9. What is the goal of the ECL program?**

The ECL program is designed to build successful community leaders with a passion for serving in the community. Equipped to connect, serve and lead, ECL graduates become a part of the long term solution to the problems faced by people living in Champaign County.