

United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

LIVE UNITED



NEWS FROM YOUR UNITED WAY

August 2009

Our Community Matters and So Does Your Input

We need your help in identifying the most urgent problems facing Benton and Franklin Counties and the solutions we should pursue together to improve our community. Please take the time to complete this brief online survey. The results will help us in determining our next initiative.

To participate in this short survey, please go to:

[The Next Community Solutions Initiative](#)



2009 Campaign Kickoff Breakfast and Service Provider Fair

The United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties' 2009 Campaign Kick-Off Breakfast and Service Provider Fair will be held on Wednesday, September 9, from 7:30 to 10:00 a.m. at the TRAC in Pasco. At the event, the 2009 Campaign Chair, Rod Webring will provide details about the plans for the 2009 Campaign and the Campaign video produced by Lockheed Martin will be debuted. United Way Funded Service Providers will set up booths to provide information regarding the various programs and resources currently available. Breakfast will be served and everyone in attendance will receive a free LIVE UNITED t-shirt. Cost to attend the breakfast is \$20 per person. Tables of eight are available. For more information, or to RSVP for this event, contact Lindsay Nicora at 783-4102 or lnicora@unitedway-bfco.com.

Register Now for the 2009 Campaign Coordinators' Conference

The 2009 Campaign Coordinators' Conference is scheduled for Tuesday, August 18, from noon to 4:00 p.m. at United Way. This free conference is designed to provide information on how to run a successful United Way Campaign in the workplace. This year's conference includes details about the new campaign materials, break-out sessions, lunch, networking and opportunities to win prizes! Companies are asked to identify their 2009 United Way Campaign Coordinators and encourage these individuals to register. It will be a power-packed afternoon of learning, sharing, and fun.

To register, contact Lindsay Nicora at (509) 783-4102 or

On the Calendar

Campaign Coordinators' Conference
United Way
Tue., August 18, 2009
Noon-4:00 p.m.

11th Annual EnergySolutions United Way Golf Tournament
Canyon Lakes
Thur., Sept. 3, 2009
1:30 p.m. Shotgun Start

2009 United Way Campaign Kickoff Breakfast and Service Provider Fair
TRAC in Pasco
Wed., Sept. 9, 2009
7:30-10:00 a.m.

Enjoy First-Rate Golf, Support United Way

EnergySolutions will host the 11th Annual United Way Golf Tournament at Canyon Lakes Golf Course on Thursday, September 3. Event highlights include closest-to-the-pin prize of a GPS system, raffle, hole-in-one prize, BBQ lunch, and steak and salmon dinner. This scramble will begin with a 1:30 p.m. shotgun start; registration and BBQ lunch sponsored by Henager Black Dentistry begins at 12:00 p.m. Since EnergySolutions is hosting this event, entry fees and all proceeds go directly to United Way to support education, health, safety, and self-sufficiency. For more information or to register, contact Amy Schatz at 375-9592 or email her at:

Inicora@unitedway-bfco.com.

"Our lives begin to end the day we are silent about the things that matter."

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Our Babies Can't Wait Programs and Services

Our Babies Can't Wait aims to help parents, caregivers, and the community create an environment that will increase kindergarten readiness, high school graduation rates, workforce readiness and job productivity. At the same time, the initiative seeks to decrease dropout rates, teenage pregnancy, welfare dependency and crime rates. A key emphasis is to make it easier for parents to connect to information, resources and other parents. Here are some of the programs that the Our Babies Can't Wait initiative currently supports:

1. Workshops for parents are offered through the Mid-Columbia Reading Foundation. A wide-range of informational topics is discussed including nutrition, sleep/wake cycles, developmental stages, child safety and how to choose a caregiver.
 2. Family Engagement services are offered through Lutheran Community Services Northwest. Here, parents have a chance to learn about services available in the community that may help meet their special needs.
 3. Benton Franklin Substance Abuse Coalition and Catholic Family and Child Services offer Community Cafés. Community Cafés are a series of conversations among parents about how to raise thriving children.
 4. For eligible families, the Benton and Franklin Health District provides public health nurses, registered dieticians and behavioral health specialists to assist families through the First Steps Program as well as through the Women, Infant and Children (WIC) Program.
 5. Our Babies Can't Wait has close to 200 informational articles and other resources available through the internet. People find Our Babies Can't Wait materials to be educational and user-friendly and most are available in English and Spanish. The link is: [Our Babies Can't Wait Informational Materials](#).
- Space for the workshops and Community Cafés are limited and offered on a first-come first-serve basis. Parents of infants are encouraged to sign up for workshops by calling the Mid-Columbia Reading Foundation at (509) 987-BABY or 2-1-1. Parents interested in Community Cafés can call the Substance Abuse Coalition at (509) 783-3180.

arschatz@energysolutions.com.

[Click here](#) for the Golf Tournament registration form.



Benton Franklin Health District Encourages Parents to Take Part in OBCW

Benton-Franklin Health District recently issued a press release. Here is part of the article: "Will my baby become spoiled if I always respond to her cry?" "Should I talk to my baby since he cannot understand what I am saying?" "When should I start reading to my child?" These are common questions for new parents, but many find that the right answers may not be so easy to come by. Carla Prock, a Benton-Franklin Health District nurse says, "there are a lot of myths or half-truths out there about what to do with babies. We also have new information we didn't have ten years ago which makes it very important for parents to stay updated and informed..." To read the full article, [click here](#).



New Hire

Ashley Nygaard, Resource Development Associate. As our Resource Development



Volunteers Needed to Help Distribute OBCW Materials

With the help of over 93 volunteers, we completed the first wave of distribution by delivering educational materials to over 398 locations, including doctor's offices, hospitals, schools, human service organizations and many other sites. Thank you to all who helped in this effort.

At this time, we are organizing a second wave of distribution, and we need volunteers to help disperse these materials once again. For more information please contact Lindsay Nicora at the United Way office (509) 783-4102 or send an email to lnicora@unitedway-bfco.com.



BE AN ADVOCATE

Forward this eNewsletter

You can LIVE UNITED by helping us spread the word. Imagine how many people we could reach if everyone forwards this to five people.

[+ TELL YOUR FRIENDS](#)

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Associate, she is responsible for maintaining and increasing fundraising goals in the Commerce and Professional divisions of our community. Ashley holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communications with an emphasis in Public Relations from Eastern Washington University.

Greater Columbia 2-1-1 Earns National Accreditation

The Greater Columbia 2-1-1 whose service area includes Benton and Franklin Counties, has earned their national accreditation from the Alliance for Information and Referral Systems (AIRS). It's the national standard for all 2-1-1 systems, encompassing individual certifications and call center accreditation.



Quick Links

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[Community Solutions](#)

[Young Leaders Society](#)

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