United Way of
Benton and Franklin Counties

LIVE UNITED

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ENEWS FROM YOUR UNITED WAY

January 2009

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Our Babies Can't Wait Launch

Approximately 150 community leaders gathered at United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties Tuesday, January 13, for a meeting to launch Our Babies Can't Wait, the first initiative of Community Solutions.

The vision of Our Babies Can't Wait is: By the time today's newborns are 20 years old, they will be successful in school and in life because of the foundation we built. Our Babies Can't Wait aims to help parents, caregivers, and the community create a caring and nurturing 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.

The Our Babies Can't Wait Initiative consists of a community-wide strategy and an East Kennewick start-up project. Over 20 community partners have been actively participating in the planning of this initiative. Sandy Owen with the Benton Franklin Health Department is the champion of this inititive. United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties is the facilitator.

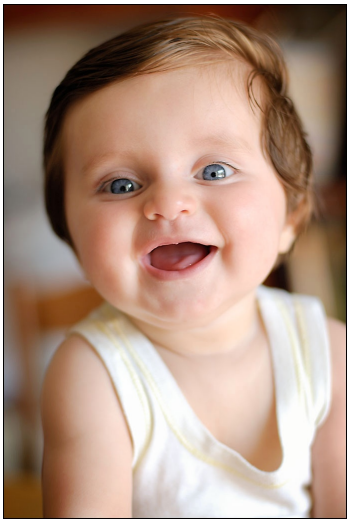
For more information about Community Solutions and Our Babies Can't Wait, visit www.communitysolutions-bfco.com or contact Becky Gauthier at 783-4102 or bgauthier@unitedway-bfco.com.

"No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the
reward for what he gave."
- Calvin Coolidge

On the Calendar

United Way Office Closed
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Mon., Jan. 19, 2009

Annual Celebration
Pasco Red Lion
Wed., Feb. 25, 2009
11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.



Quick Links

United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties

Community Solutions

Young Leaders Society

GoodSearch

Campaign Update

The 2008 Campaign is currently at 90% of the $4.5 million goal. Funds raised through the annual Campaign will be utilized to provide needed services to local residents in the areas of education, health, safety and self-sufficiency. Examples of services that have received United Way funding are youth development programs, healthcare, counseling for families in crisis and services for individuals with disabilities. The Campaign will continue until March 31; however, it is never too late to give. Donations can be made through payroll deduction, check, cash, automatic checking withdrawal, credit card, stock or online at www.unitedway-bfco.com.

For more information, contact Gail Greager at 783-4102 or ggreager@unitedway-bfco.com.

United Way is creating opportunities by focusing on the building blocks for a good life:

Education, Health, Safety and Self-Sufficiency

Featured United Way Service Providers:

Lourdes Counseling Center:
Lourdes Counseling Center has a Children's Summer Day Treatment Program that allows at-risk kids to continue their education through the summer. There were 32 kids enrolled this past summer. In the program, counselors were able to work with the kids on communication skills, attitude, social skills, etc. that better prepared them for the next school year as well as interacting with friends and family. With the first half of the school year now complete, these kids were able to have a smooth transition to school in the fall and have shown great strides in reducing problem behaviors in school, home and in the community, thanks to this program.

American Red Cross:
Benton-Franklin Chapter: Red Cross operates a Disaster Services program to help families recover their self-reliance by receiving basic human needs immediately following a disaster. A typical disaster in our area is a house fire, especially in the winter months when people may use unsafe means of heat. Recently, a family with three young children had a house fire and Red Cross was able to provide blankets, comfort kits, toys to calm the kids, a hotel stay, a gift card for food/clothing and other essentials, and their first month's rent. They have also been able to put the family in touch with other local service agencies to help them get back on their feet.

For a complete list of United Way funded services and providers, please visit www.unitedway-bfco.com and click on the "2008 Funded Programs" button.

Annual Celebration Scheduled

United Way's 51st Annual Celebration will be on Wednesday, February 25, 2009, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Pasco Red Lion. This event will be a celebration of everything that has been accomplished in the past year. The Distinguished Volunteer of the Year will be announced during this event, as well as the final amount raised during the 2008 Campaign. The cost for the luncheon meeting is $20. To make a reservation, please contact Lindsay Nicora at lnicora@unitedway-bfco.com or 783-4102.

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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