United Way of
Benton and Franklin Counties

LIVE UNITED

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

ENEWS FROM YOUR UNITED WAY

March 2009

United Way Announces 2008 Achievements at 51st Annual Meeting

Over 200 people gathered on February 25 to celebrate United Way's 2008 achievements at the 51st Annual Celebration. With less than a month away from the conclusion of this year's Campaign, $4.3 million has been raised. "This is testament to the amazing generosity of our community in spite of a tough economy," exclaimed Bob Hammond, 2008 Campaign Chair. The amount includes both individual and corporate gifts. Donations will continue to be accepted through March 31. Funds raised from the Campaign will be utilized to provide needed services to local residents in the areas of education, health, safety and self-sufficiency.

An additional accomplishment highlighted during the Annual Celebration by 2009 Board Chair, John Inman, was the Community Solutions facilitation by United Way that has led to the implementation of a first of its kind regional health and human services plan. The Community Solutions Plan was completed in December of 2007 and has four main priority areas of education, health, safety, and self-sufficiency. Implementation of the Plan is well underway and has led to the first Community Solutions Initiative, Our Babies Can't Wait, which was launched in January 2009. United Way has aligned this year's funding with the four priority areas of the Community Solutions Plan resulting in funding 22 local agencies and 49 programs.

Rod Webring Named 2008 Distinguished Volunteer of the Year

United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties surprised Rod Webring recently during a United Way board meeting by awarding him the honor of being this year's Distinguished Volunteer of the Year. He is retired from Energy Northwest.

Rod is in his seventh year on the United Way Board of Directors, currently serving as the Campaign Chair, Emergency Food and Shelter Program Board Chair, member of the Executive Committee and Speakers Bureau, and one of the Community Solutions team leaders. In years past, he has also been Board Chair, Past Chair, and Vice Chair. He is a true leader when it comes to building our community. United Way

On the Calendar

YLS Spring Into Safety
Boys & Girls Club
Pasco
Sat., March 28, 2009
12-3 p.m.

CFC Applications Due
United Way
Thurs., April 9, 2009
4:00 p.m.

Energy*Solutions*
United Way
Golf Tournament
Canyon Lakes
Thurs., Sept. 3, 2009
1:00 p.m.

has benefited greatly from Rod's guidance in helping us set ambitious goals to bring about improvement in people's lives.

"You can have everything in life that you want if you will just help enough other people get what they want."

- Zig Ziglar

Community Cafés

Changing the Lives of Children Through Conversations That Matter

Twenty-four parents gathered at United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties on February 28. They learned how to host Community Cafés, guided conversations among neighbors and community members designed to improve the lives of children and their families. The day-long session was conducted in English and Spanish simultaneously, with focus on the power of community connections, partnerships and parent leadership in reweaving the social fabric that will help our children thrive.

Attendees were excited about the opportunity to build community wisdom and action to strengthen families. Several people have agreed to plan and host a Community Café series in various parts of Benton and Franklin Counties. Benton Franklin Substance Abuse Coalition and Catholic Family and Child Service will assist in these efforts. Community Cafés have been made possible locally by a grant from United Ways of Washington.

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

Education, Health, Safety and Self-Sufficiency

United Way

Featured United Way Service Provider:

Blue Mountain Council, Boy Scouts of America: The Blue Mountain Council Boy Scouts has a scouting program that encourages youth to participate in activities that enhance education and mental development. A pure demonstration of a Scout "getting it" is when he achieves the rank of Eagle Scout. Not only have they done a significant project, they have also learned and demonstrated a wide variety of skills and leadership. Blue Mountain Council had 148 Scouts earn the award in 2008, up from 117 in 2007. Over 80% of the youth involved are registered to be members for another year. 4,655 merit badges were earned by Scouts, demonstrating mastery of a skill set. Another recent accomplishment was that one Scout from Richland received the Presidential Volunteer Service Award from President Bush for organizing Arrow Corps 5, the largest service project ever in the national parks.

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.

YLS Spring Into Safety Event

The Young Leaders Society will again be helping with the Safe Kids Coalition Spring into Safety event on March 28th from 12-3 pm at the Boys and Girls Club, located on 801 North 18th Avenue in Pasco. The Young Leaders will organize the bike rodeo to help youth learn the skills needed to control his/her bicycle and will also teach pedestrian safety. This is a great way to educate children in our community. Volunteers are asked to arrive by 11am for set-up. Shifts are available. Please RSVP to Sarah Murphy at smurphy@unitedway-bfco.com or 783-4102 if you can help with this great event.

Our Babies Can't Wait - East Kennewick Start-Up

Firstborn babies and their parents who reside in East Kennewick are invited to participate in three FREE premier services offered by Our Babies Can't Wait: Nurse Services, Workshops for New Parents, and Family Engagement.
For more information, visit http://www.communitysolutions-bfco.com/obcweastkennewick.htm.

Quick Links

Open Application for 2009 Combined Federal Campaign

United Way is now accepting applications from not-for-profits who wish to participate in the 2009 Mid- Columbia Area Combined Federal Campaign. By applying, a human care organization may be eligible to receive contributions from federal government employees in the 2009 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties manages the CFC for the federal government.

Applications can be found at www.unitedway-bfco.com/cfc.htm and are due no later than 4:00 p.m. Thursday, April 9, 2009 at United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties, 401 North Young Street, Kennewick, 99336.

A committee of local federal agency officials will review all applications and only the agencies granted eligibility may receive federal employee contributions in 2009. For additional questions, or to obtain a hard copy of the application, please contact Sarah Murphy, CFC Coordinator, at (509) 783-4102 or smurphy@unitedway-bfco.com.

United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties

Community Solutions

Young Leaders Society

GoodSearch

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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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