United Way of
Benton and Franklin Counties

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LIVE UNITED

ENEWS FROM YOUR UNITED WAY

May 2009

We Want to Hear From You...

In an effort to better serve you and our community, we invite you to participate in a quick 10 minute survey. The information we gather from this survey will help us remain relevant and meet our community's changing needs. We value your feedback about your experience with United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties and thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with us.

To take the survey, simply click on the following link:
http://www.unitedway-bfco.com/UWBFC2009Survey.htm

Together, we can accomplish what no individual or family can alone. Together, we can create a brighter future and a better life for the residents of Benton and Franklin Counties.

Thank you for making your voice heard.

"He who has health, has hope. And he who has hope, has everything."

- Arabian Proverb

Community Cafés Strengthen Families

Parents have discovered that they can change the lives of children one conversation at a time. Two Community Café series started in the Tri-Cities in the past month. The goal of these parent-hosted gatherings is to build leadership and partnership among parents so they can raise thriving children. Each Community Café consists of a series of six scheduled meetings.

Catholic Family and Child Service is the lead organization for the Community Café in Pasco, and Benton-Franklin Substance Abuse Coalition is leading one in Kennewick. The Cafés were made possible by a grant from United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties and United Ways of Washington. More series are being planned.

The timing for Community Cafés is right. Human service organizations are working harder with fewer resources. Needs are increasing and many good programs in our community are seeing growing demand for their services. Between jobs, chores, and a busy routine, many parents feel isolated from their

On the Calendar

Vintner Reception hosted by
Energy***Solutions***
Anthony's Event Center
Wed., June 24, 2009
5:30-7:30 p.m.

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

Vintner Appreciation Reception

The 20th Annual Vintner Appreciation Reception, hosted by EnergySolutions, is scheduled for Wednesday, June 24th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Anthony's Banquet and Event Center. To-date, there are over 1,000 total Vintners, representing individuals and couples who contribute $1,000 or more annually to United Way. Invitations for this event will be sent out at the beginning of June.

community.

"More so than ever, parent leadership is important to build the relationships that network parents with each other around matters that most significantly impact their children and families. Community Cafés help to create the opportunity and support needed to raise a family," said Maureen McGrath, Director of Catholic Family and Child Service.

To find out more about the Pasco Community Cafés, contact Maureen McGrath at 545-6145. For Kennewick's Community Cafés, contact Peggy Haecker at 783-3180.

Our Babies Can't Wait Featured at Health & Safety Expo

Community Solutions' first initiative, Our Babies Can't Wait (OBCW), participated in the recent Health and Safety Exposition at the Trade Recreation Agricultural Center (TRAC) in Pasco. With more than 63,000 attendees and over 260 companies represented, this Expo gave OBCW a unique opportunity to educate and increase public awareness about all the things OBCW has to offer our community.

Over twenty OBCW supporters volunteered their time to inform, excite, and distribute OBCW educational materials to attendees at the Expo. The OBCW booth was eye-catching, informative and fun. A game wheel was on display and gave attendees the opportunity to get involved by spinning the wheel and answering a relevant question to win a children's book, donated by The Mid-Columbia Reading Foundation. Approximately 1,500 books were given out during the two-day event.

Thank you to the following organizations who sponsored OBCW at this event: Brittney Kluse Photography, Benton PUD, Franklin PUD, Lutheran Community Services Northwest, Mid-Columbia Reading Foundation, Ready! for Kindergarten, Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce, Washington State University Tri-Cities, the Young Leaders Society from United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties and Dr. Sara Zirkle.

DOE Day of Caring

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) partnered with United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties and the Benton-Franklin Volunteer Center to conduct a "Day of Caring" in our community on May 14. Approximately 90 DOE employees volunteered a half day of their time to work at thirteen different not-for-profit organizations throughout the community. Among the projects, they built a shed for Elijah Family Homes, volunteered chore services at about a dozen selected homes through Catholic Family and Child Service, and worked on the Yakima River boat launches for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Benton-Franklin Volunteer Center coordinated the work sites. The event kicked-off with a BBQ lunch at United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties for all of the volunteers.

Quick Links

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 Provider:

Salvation Army: The Salvation Army has a new financial planning program to educate families who are seeking financial assistance. A married, mother of 4 recently attended the program. During the 90 day follow-up interview she reported that she is utilizing the budgeting tools she learned during the course and has managed her bills without financial assistance from any other social service agencies. She also has not had to utilize the food bank on a monthly basis as she had in the past. For more information about this program, call (509) 943-7977.

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.

United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties

Community Solutions

Young Leaders Society

GoodSearch

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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