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United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties

LIVE UNITED



GIVE, ADVOCATE, VOLUNTEER.



Check Point Meeting

Approximately 80 community leaders gathered at United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties on September 30th for a meeting to identify the next Community Solutions Initiative. While continuing efforts on the Our Babies Can't Wait Initiative, Community Solutions Team Members and Blue Ribbon Advisors are now working on identifying additional ways to build a better community. This past summer, Community Solutions teams met to look at the most urgent community issues, root causes and their solutions. A community-wide survey was also conducted. At the Check Point Meeting, Blue Ribbon Advisors met to evaluate the data obtained this summer. Education surfaced as the most pressing emphasis for the next Community Solutions Initiative. In addition, the group discussed top related issues that influence education, such as parenting and mentoring, literacy and readiness for kindergarten. Education encompasses people of all ages and stages and pertains to lifelong learning, not just academics.

Save the Date!

United Way Young Leaders Society
Annual Membership Event

Thursday, November 19
6:30-8:30p.m.
location to be announced

The Young Leaders Society promotes and encourages the spirit of philanthropy and volunteerism among young residents of Benton and Franklin Counties and other individuals with similar professional and community interests.

Join us for an evening of wine and dessert, and hear about fun activities throughout the year.

For more information, contact Sarah Murphy at 783-4102 or smurphy@unitedway-bfco.com

"Y" Live United



The first annual "Y" Live United Event was held September 25th at Columbia Center Mall in Kennewick. The purpose of this event was to inform the community, including the "Y" generation how they can become involved by

partnering with United Way to give, advocate, and volunteer to make our community a better place.

Matt Riesenweber from Waddell and Reed spoke to the more than 70 people in attendance about various ways people


Greater Columbia 2-1-1 Center Receives Accreditation


In September, The Greater Columbia 2-1-1, a service provided by People For People, was accredited by the Alliance of Information & Referral Systems for demonstrated competencies in applying the standards for professional information


from all generations can make a difference in our community. Booths from 12 United Way funded service providers were available for guests to visit and gather information.


United Way Funded Program Highlights


Did you know. . .


 YMCA Tri-Cities Summer Day Camp Program served 395 youth with 246 (62%) receiving a scholarship. The program provided safe, fun and dynamic summer activities for children of working parents.

 The ARC of the Tri-Cities Disability Childcare Program provided 152 youth with disabilities 10 weekly sessions and 21,400 hours of daycare during the summer months. Families reported the program helped to improve life skills and decreased social isolation and family stress.

 Lourdes Counseling Center Children's Summer Day Treatment Program recognizes a gap in services for children with behavior problems during the summer. The Summer Day Treatment Program supported children and families during the summer months in order to continue work on improving social and educational compliance and reducing the intensity and frequency of violence.

 Benton Franklin Head Start School Readiness served 400 pre-kindergarteners, of which, 92% recognized at least 10 alphabet letters before they entered kindergarten.

 Adult Day Services Elder Services Program provides elderly or disabled adults opportunities for physical activities and social relationships. Medical well-checks are also provided. Adult Day Service prevents many of the clients from being institutionalized. The program adds much to their independence and quality of life.

 Girl Scouts of Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho Summer Science Program was held at 16 sites throughout the community. Key partners were Memorial Park, Boys and Girls Club, Howard Amon Park, Columbia Park, Richland Community Center, and the City of Pasco. Last year, 70% of participants reported enjoying math and science more in school and 60% reported improved grades in math and science as a result.

and referral. The new status means the Greater Columbia 2-1-1 has again met nationally recognized standards for quality as determined through an on-site survey and self-assessment. GC 2-1-1 is now one of only four AIRS-accredited organizations in the state of Washington.

Roberts Appointed to Financial Issues Committee



Lauri Roberts, a Certified Public Accountant and Director of Finance for United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties, has been selected to participate in United Way Worldwide's Financial Issues Committee. The Financial Issues Committee acts as a policy recommendation body that produces recommended standards, guidelines, policy guidance or research useful to the United Way system.

Lauri began working with United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties as the Director of Finance in February 2006. Prior to United Way, she spent six years as a controller and four years in public accounting, specializing in non-profit auditing and consulting.

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