



Community Matters

Volume 1, Issue 3

December 2009

Greetings from the Director



LIVE UNITED IN
VENANGO COUNTY

**United Way of
Venango County**

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United Ways across this great nation have experienced very challenging times this campaign year. Helping our friends and neighbors in need during these difficult times has been our focus since the start of our campaign. We've shared our message with the community and the good people in our community have responded positively.

The outpouring of generous support that has been received to date will help to ensure that the vital services and programs offered by our seventeen Partner Agencies will continue to be available to those less fortunate throughout the coming year.

Thank you to all our dedicated volunteers and our many supporters. This campaign has been a true testament of the generous people in Venango County. Although many campaigns at some of our key accounts are still underway, there is still time to make a difference and make a positive impact on individuals and families in our community.

If you don't know what to give someone for the upcoming Christmas holiday, you can always make a tax deductible donation to the United Way of Venango County. Whether you're honoring a friend, relative, neighbor or coworker, your generous gift will make a big difference in the lives of many in our community. An acknowledgment card will be sent to the recipient, indicating a donation to the United Way of Venango County has been made in their honor.

I would like to extend my heartfelt wishes to everyone for a safe and Happy Holiday Season. Again, thank you for helping us throughout 2009 to make Venango County a better place to live and work.

Upcoming Events:

- * December 30 Student United Way Youth Fun Fair
- * January 21 United Way Annual Meeting
- * February 19,20, & 21 2010 Oil Country Bluegrass Festival
- * March 13, 2010 3rd Annual UWVC Casino Night

Raffle Wrap-Up

Well, our Pittsburgh Sports Memorabilia Raffle is over and we couldn't of done it without all the help of Earl Lytle and Shawn Wingard, Specialty Fabrication and Powder Coating, all of our board members, and our wonderful volunteers. Without all of you we never would have been

able to get those tickets out in circulation like we did, so Thanks. We also want to thank everyone who supported UW and purchased a ticket. Every little bit really does help and our campaign thanks all of you as well.

Now a Congratulation to all of our lucky winners:

Grand Prize- Missy Carter, 2nd Prize-Keith Siverling, 3rd Prize-Marge Schultheis, 4th Prize- Pam Allen, and 5th Prize- Dan Paulo. And again thanks to everyone for their work on this it did pay off the raffle brought in \$5,690.00 for the 2009 Campaign.

Student United Way

Written by:

Jeffrey Polley SUW President

Clarion University's Student United Way Program kicked off its fall service projects the week of October 26th with a Halloween Themed "Reading Comes to Life" program at the Oil City Child Development Center. The group picked out Halloween themed books for the students, and had characters from the book act out scenes from these stories in order to bring the book to life. Characters then also participated with the children in crafts and snack activities that were related to the stories that were read that week.

On December 30th, the group plans a "Fun Fair" to be held at Clarion University's Venango Campus here in Oil City. Time of this event is to be announced later, but we are shooting for 9am - 3pm. We will have selected time slots for groups that we will be inviting such as, Youth Alternatives, Big Brothers & Big Sisters, Fatherhood Initiative, the daycares from the YMCAs as well as other area youth.

We thank you for your patience



Student United Way Members Jeff Polley and Nate Micklus reading *Where the Wild Things Are* to youth at the Child Development Center in Hasson Heights

as we baby step through our initial semester. We will be offering our assistance to our sister agencies in the upcoming months. Enjoy the holidays... Be blessed and be thankful. For what we have, someone else wishes they had!

2009 United Way of Venango County Campaign Update

Foundations & Trusts	\$11,200.00	Business	\$5,451.00
Leadership Gifts	\$54,250.00	Public Service	\$33,301.00
Major Firms	\$62,934.00	Residential	\$ 3,295.00
Professional	\$11,775.00	Special Events	\$18,644.00

Campaign Total to Date: \$200,850.00

50% of \$400,000.00 Goal

Salvation Army Franklin Unit- Agency of the Month

Written By: Virginia Hardiman Commanding Officer

The Franklin Salvation Army offices will be moving to their new location on the intersection of 8th and Elk in the beginning of December. We will continue with the food distribution and soup kitchen at the old location for December.

We have been busy getting

Christmas lined up with applications etc. We are hoping to help 325 children have a Merry Christmas plus around 125 families with Christmas dinner.. We will be having a community Christmas dinner in the soup kitchen on December 10th. We will also be hosting the Sheetz Christmas. Our community care ministry will be visiting the Caring Place, Sugar Valley Lodge, and Sugar Creek Station with gifts.

Kettles have started. We need volunteers to man them. The money raised helps support our budget in helping others in our community. Band, sacred dance, Wednesday youth activities, home league and men's club will continue for most of the month.

We want to thank the United Way and the people of our community for all they do for us.

Thanks to our Board of Directors for a Year Well Done

Our sincere thanks to the Members of our Board of Directors for embracing our efforts throughout this past year. Together, with your support, we have worked diligently to improve the quality of life for thousands of people. Your volunteer leadership has been invaluable to our community and you have made an impact on the lives of those that you have touched by your efforts.

We are honored and proud to have you as part of this organization.

- Tom Allen, 2009 Board President, from FICDA
- Jennifer Cisek, Vice President, from WS Packaging
- Terri Wood, Vice President, from Dale Woodard Law Office

- Rich Mihalic, Secretary, from Two Mile Run County Park
- Kathy Gatto, Assistant Secretary, from Ear, Nose, & Throat Associates
- Gus Kirwin, Treasurer, from First National Bank
- Barbara Frantz, Assistant Treasurer, from Ellectralloy
- Nora Cheers, IPEG
- Jeff Fowler, Penn State Cooperative Extension
- Sandy Fry, Joy Mining Machinery
- Cindy Winters, Child Development Centers
- Barbara Hinds, Area Agency on Aging

- Rick Hulsizer, First United National Bank
- Erin Kelly, Venango Newspapers
- Earl Lytle, SFPC
- Lori Marvin, Barr's Insurance
- Lisa Moritz, The Caring Place
- Dr. Chris Reber, Clarion University Venango Campus
- Linda Routzahn, First Energy/Penelec
- Linda Schell, PA Career Link Oil Region
- Bonnie Smeal, Whalen Contracting
- Lance Titus, Northwest Savings Bank
- Libby Williams, Retired Clarion University Venango Campus Librarian

What We've Been Up To

Recently, at United Way of Venango County, we have been wrapping up our Pittsburgh Sports Memorabilia Raffle, congratulations to our winners, participating in site visits, corresponding to our funds distribution process, and working to better our special events that are coming up before we know it.

The 3rd Annual Oil Country Bluegrass Festival is coming up on February 19, 20, and 21 and it will be at the Arlington Hotel in Oil City. Our bluegrass committee has had its initial planning meeting and there will be some new, exciting additions to the event that will only make this wonderful event even better.

Our 3rd Annual Casino Night is also planned for March 13 and many exciting activities have been planned for it already. We have begun the process of confirming sponsors for the event. If anyone is interested in being a sponsor for the event you can contact the United Way office for more details at 814-676-6545.

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County**

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**United Way... Now More
Than Ever**



LIVE UNITED!

The United Way of Venango County is working to advance the common good by focusing on the building blocks for a good life for all in our community— important issues such as education, income and health.

Our goal is to create long-lasting changes that prevent problems from happening in the first place. Your support of the United Way goes to work bringing lasting change, right where you live.

We invite you to be part of this change. Together, United, we can inspire hope and create opportunities for a better tomorrow. That's what it means to LIVE UNITED..

Our Member Agencies

- ~ American Red Cross Allegheny Region Chapter
- ~ Blind Association of Venango County
- ~ Community Ambulance
- ~ Community Services of Venango County
- ~ Easter Seal Society, Western PA Division
- ~ Family Service & Children's Aid Society
- ~ French Creek Boy Scout Council
- ~ Girl Scouts of Western PA
- ~ The Salvation Army (Franklin and Oil City Units)
- ~ Sugar Valley Lodge
- ~ Venango Area Community Foundation
- ~ VARHA (Venango Area Riding for the Handicapped Association)
- ~ Y.M.C.A. (Franklin and Oil City)
- ~ Y.W.C.A.
- ~ Youth Alternatives