



NEWSLETTER

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A Note from the United Way Board President, Harris Brokke

The donations and pledges received for the 2007 Combined Federal Campaign [CFC] and the United Way of IWV campaign again show the generosity of the businesses and residents of the Indian Wells Valley and Searles Valley communities. The CFC campaign has raised \$192,407.28, with \$73,048.96 staying in our local communities. The United Way campaign has raised \$85,298.24, with additional pledges still coming in to our office. These funds will go a long way toward meeting the needs of residents who are served by United Way of IWV and its thirty member agencies. On behalf of our board of directors and the residents of the community who are served, thank you all for your generosity. Since the needs of our community never take a day off, we are already beginning the accreditation process of member agencies for the 2008 campaign. Member agencies will be receiving applications for accreditation in early February, with their accreditation paperwork due back to our office by early April. If you represent a non-profit organization that provides useful services in our communities and would like to apply for accreditation, please contact Wen at the United Way office, 375-1920.

2007 Family Fun Fair - The Best Ever!



In September the Family Fun Fair kicked off the United Way's annual Fall Campaign with live entertainment from the Dixieland Band, The Farris Family Singers and Crosscurrent. In addition to the Punt, Pass, and Kick Contest, member agency booths featured arts and crafts activities, face painting, bounce houses, and children's games. The day culminated with prizes for the best decorated booths to the Girl Scouts, Indian Wells Valley Search and Rescue, and The Historical Society.



UW wishes to congratulate the employees at DCS Corporation for being the first of our many generous companies to complete their UW community campaign for Fall 2007 by pledging \$7,608. A special thank you to DCS campaign coordinator, Faith Newbury, for her hard work in coordinating the drive.

A Note from Wen Houtkooper

As the Executive Director for your IWV UW, I have the privilege of working for an all volunteer 15 member Board of Directors. I feel extremely fortunate to work for a BOD, as this structure has many benefits for the community, the organization, and the Executive Director. Board members bring diverse opinions, a wealth of knowledge, and objectivity to all board deliberations. IWV UW Board Members set policies for our local UW and ensure the work is done with integrity and with maximum accountability to the community. I highly respect all of our past and present board members and consider myself to be part of a team with one goal in mind: improve the lives of others through our fundraising efforts. It doesn't get much better than that! I will continue to work with and for my BOD and community members. If you are interested in serving on our BOD or would like more information, please feel free to contact me at 375-1920.

Happy New Year!



The CFC

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is made up of local campaigns that raise funds in Federal workplaces across the country and around the world. It is the only authorized solicitation of employees in the Federal workplace on behalf of charitable organizations. With a tradition of commitment to the community and through the selfless efforts of Federal employees, it brings diversity of fundraising efforts under one umbrella, one campaign, once a year.



Leah Bayer



Kalie Kinsfather



Makenna Zackrison

This year, the Local Federal Coordinating Committee conducted a poster coloring contest for children and chose 3 winners who best reflected the campaign theme, "Be an Everyday Hero". Full color posters were created from each winning drawing and displayed throughout all Federal establishments, as well as displaying the winning drawings on the front of the CFC brochure. The kids received recognition at the annual CFC Kick Off in October and received their framed poster with a \$25 gift certificate to "Just Imagine". The 2007 poster contest winners were: Leah Bayer, Kalie Kinsfather, and Makenna Zackrison. We are very proud of our young artists for their thoughtful rendition of the campaign theme.

Alternative Giving

United Way of IWV recently received a sizeable donation of a mutual fund from a community member, which reminded us that there are probably many people who don't realize that there are alternate ways to donate to United Way. It is possible to go beyond strictly cash donations and make a gift that would benefit United Way for years to come. Donating appreciated assets, such as stocks or mutual funds, is often an overlooked opportunity to help your local United Way, and consequently many people in the community. A tax advisor or accountant can advise you in how to make such a contribution.

To Brighten Your Day

Things I've Learned From My Kids

1. A king size waterbed holds enough water to fill a 2000 sq. ft. house 4 inches deep.
2. If you spray hair spray on dust bunnies and run over them with roller blades, they can ignite.
3. A 3 year old's voice is louder than 200 adults in a crowded restaurant.
4. If you hook a dog leash over a ceiling fan, the motor is not strong enough to rotate a 42-pound boy wearing batman underwear and a superman cape. The motor is strong enough, however, if tied to a paint can, to spread paint on all four walls of a 20 by 20 room.
5. You should not throw baseballs up when a ceiling fan is on. A ceiling fan can hit a baseball a long way.
6. The glass in windows (even double paned) doesn't stop a baseball hit by a spinning ceiling fan.
7. When you hear the toilet flush and the words "Uh-oh," it's already too late.
8. Brake fluid mixed with Clorox makes smoke, and lots of it.
9. A six year old can start a fire with a flint rock even though a 36-year old man says they can only do it in the movies. A magnifying glass can also start a fire, even on an overcast day.
10. Certain LEGOS will pass through the digestive tract of a four year old.

Highlighting B-Mountain Foundation

B-Mountain Foundation Inc., founded as a non-profit foundation in 1992, has awarded more than \$100,000 in grants to classroom teachers and staff to implement curriculum enhancing programs. These programs have included displays, field trips, counseling programs, audio-visual equipment, technology, Fine Arts, Math, Home Economics and Physical Education equipment and supplies. In 2005, Burroughs High School was awarded the California Distinguished High School award, in part because of the various innovative programs and initiatives that were funded by the B-Mountain Foundation.



The Link Crew, one of the special programs funded by B-Mountain Foundation

The 2007 Campaign

Lisa Look, representing Dave Pearson's Recycling Center, is shown donating \$1,050 to the Fall 2007 United Way Community Campaign. They are representative of the many small businesses in our community that contribute every year to our campaign. Owners, Dave and Pam Pearson, designated the month of October to be the month that United Way would benefit from their recycling business by donating \$0.10 for every pound recycled.



Meet The Board

Ron Atkins, outstanding Past President, Vice President, Family Fun Fair Chair and eager volunteer for any UW project or event, he also finds time to help restore historical buildings in Randsburg and serve on the Maturango Museum board. His various positions with the Navy included Chemistry Division Head, Deputy of the Cruise Missile Project, and Director of the Energetic Materials Center at Lawrence Livermore Lab. He is a life member of the China Lake Mountain Rescue group and advisor to Explorer Post 891. Ron and his wife Bev are avid petroglyph tour escorts.

Harris Brokke, our current Board President and successful local realtor, is known in the community as a volunteer extraordinaire. He finds time to be active in the Lions Club and to be a board member for the Chamber of Commerce, and the IWV 2000 Community and Economic Development Corp. When Harris isn't wearing one of his community service hats, he and his wife Pat like to travel, watch movies and walk their dogs, Pebbles & Rufus.

Your Generosity

What motivates a person to dig deep and generously give to United Way? Perhaps it's because of a past kindness or help during a troubling time or perhaps because United Way is such a diverse organization, supporting many different non-profits that help people in the community in so many ways. The reasons may be many, but the result is the same: many people in need of emergency services, support, education or even inspiration are the beneficiaries of your generosity. There is one more result - your giving inspires, motivates, and reminds others to also give. Thank you for caring.

The United Way Member Agency Accreditation

Process

The annual UW of IWV and CFC accreditation process has begun. All local non-profits, including current member agencies, interested in being a UW or CFC member agency must fill out the accreditation paperwork every year. Each applicant may apply to one or both UW and CFC organizations. The UW of IWV takes its responsibility of accountability to the community very seriously. So each applicant's documentation must include, among other things, a mission statement, a 501(c)3 tax-exemption letter from the IRS, articles of incorporation, a recent tax audit (different levels depend on revenue), a current board member directory that must include a local member, the most recent annual report, the most recent IRS 990 form, and an overhead percentage calculation according to the IRS 990, which must not exceed 25%. In addition, member agency applicants must sign a document with UW agreeing to 11 items of understanding. After all accreditation requirements are completed, the UWIWV Board of Directors examines each application and decides whether the applicant will further the goals of UW of IWV and/or CFC. Any non-profit interested in becoming a United Way of IWV member agency may contact the United Way office at 375-1920.

Member Agency Happenings

Friends of the Ridgecrest Library is busy preparing 13,000 books, recently donated by the base library, for their annual Spring Book Sale. Stay tuned for more information.

The American Cancer Society and The Prostate Survival Group have moved to 139 N.Balsam St., Ste 1400. Office hours: Mon. thru Fri., 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The IWV Concert Association's next concert will feature Quarteto Gelato on Tuesday, February 5, at the Parker PAC beginning at 7:30 p.m. A free student concert will be presented that morning.

Desert Community Orchestra Association wants to remind everyone that they have a concert on March 1 at James Monroe gymnasium beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The I.W.V. Humane Society began a FREE Spay and Neuter program on October 1, 2005 called S.T.O.P. (Stop The OverPopulation). This innovative program pays the entire cost of spaying and neutering family pet(s) for those who need assistance.

Boys and Girls Club Celebrates Earth Day: Donate your recycled goods; aluminum cans, glass bottles, plastic containers, ink cartridges, and used cell phones. Drop off at The Club at 131 S. Warner St., Mon. thru Fri., April 21-25, from 2 p.m.-5 p.m., & Sat, April 26, from 10 a.m.-12 noon.

The Pregnancy Care Center is sponsoring a free Abstinence Event April 24, at Kerr McGee Center, beginning at 6 p.m.

United Way of Indian Wells Valley

206 N. Balsam Street

Ridgecrest, CA 93555

(760)375-1920

Fax: (760)375-1274

e-mail: uwiwv@iwvisp.com

website: www.iwvunitedway.org



If you would like an electronic copy of this newsletter, please call the United Way office, 375-1920.