

what matters

February 2007

Upcoming Events

April 19 **United Way**
Day of Caring

7:30 a.m. - Fort Smith
River Park Amphitheater

7:30 a.m. - Bearcat
Restaurant, Booneville

Noon - North Franklin
County Fair Building,
Ozark, AR

Noon - Sequoyah County
Boys & Girls Club,
Sallisaw, OK

Morning projects
should begin at 8:45 a.m.

May 12 **NALC**
Food Drive

Alma, Barling, Fort Smith,
Greenwood, Van Buren

Place donations
by your mailbox

Donations will be
delivered to local
food banks or pantries.

Mission

To improve lives by connect-
ing people and resources in
our six-county area

Vision

To be a community problem
solver for our six-county area

‘The real reason we are here
is the impact ... we made on
the community.’

‘We aren’t finished yet. There
are still companies out there
willing to make a difference
in our communities.’

More than 200 friends of the United Way
of Fort Smith Area gathered for a luncheon
at the Knights of Columbus Hall to
celebrate and recognize those who have
participated and finalized their 2006
annual giving campaigns.

United Way has more than 650 businesses
and individuals that give - this doesn’t
count the thousands of employees that
give through their company campaigns.

“The real reason we’re here is the impact
... we made on the community,” said board
vice chairman Rodney Shepard, in the
absence of Sam T. Sicard, 2006 Campaign
Chairman, who was celebrating the birth
of his daughter.

“We are grateful for the amazing generosi-
ty from our donors,” Sicard noted later,
“The campaign reflects the confidence
that people have in the United Way of
Fort Smith Area to spend their donations
effectively and efficiently for the needs in
the six-county area. Every individual and
every company that has been a part of this
campaign can take pride in the positive dif-
ference they are making in people’s lives.”



The Tilles Elementary Singers performed a selection of songs from their CD “Power to Believe” during the wrap-up party.

United Way of Fort Smith Area invests annually in a range of health and human service programs as well as broader strategic initiatives. These initiatives are designed to not only answer immediate needs and change lives, but also to address underlying causes and affect a lasting positive impact within the community as a whole. Initiatives include the Letter Carriers Postal Food Drive, Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library and the *Holiday Gift Guide*.

“Together, our community partners strive to ensure children succeed, build strong communities, provide basic needs and build adult independence,” said Angela Tilley, Executive Director, United Way of Fort Smith Area.

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United Way Board of Directors

Chairman

Walter Echols
ABF Freight System, Inc.

Vice Chairman

Larry Bates
Simmons First National Bank

Secretary

Susan Grobmyer
Bank of the Ozarks

Treasurer

George Moschner
BKD

Immediate Past Chairman

Dr. Sandi Sanders
Community Volunteer

Members

Van Comer

KFSM TV-5

Jackie Kruttsch

UA - Fort Smith

Kay Oliver

Farmers Bank

Blair Parnell

BanCorpSouth

Sam T. Sicard

First National Bank & Trust

Ron Calhoun

Ron Calhoun & Associates

Mike Carroll

Beall Barclay & Associates

Ann Filyaw

Assurance Realty

John Guest

Sparks Health System

Keith Hefner

Citizens Bank & Trust

Blair Jackson

Golden Ventures

Charlene Cates

HealthSouth Rehab Hospital

Dr. Gordon Floyd

Fort Smith Public Schools

Tim Kern

Whirlpool Corporation

Ed Ralston

Baldor Electric Company

Bill Lintz

Kraft/Planters

2007 Campaign Chairman

Hugh Maurras

T. J. Smith Box Company

Endowment Chairman

Tracey Geren

Weldon, Williams & Lick

Young Leadership Chairman

Cindy Barker

Arvest Bank

Participants recognized

Continued from front

Awards

Golden Venture was presented the 2006 Leader's Award - the highest honor given to a company or organization recognizing the best in corporate and volunteer support practices.

Another 11 companies and organizations received special awards while 23 companies and organizations received division awards based on community outreach, participation and giving within each division.

Other recipients include:

- ♦ **Chairman's Award** - Rheem Manufacturing - Air Conditioning Division
- ♦ **Most Resourceful Campaign Idea** - Stephens Production Company
- ♦ **Spirit of Community Awards** - Arvest Bank, KFSM TV-5, KWHN, Ron Calhoun and Associates - Real Estate, Times Record, Wal-Mart Distribution Center, and Weldon, Williams and Lick
- ♦ **Spirit of Caring Award** - Girls Incorporated and Ozark Area Youth Organization

"We started a new program this year and recruited and encouraged leaders in businesses and companies to share with us their best and brightest to assist with our campaign," noted Tilley. "Our loaned executives met monthly to learn more about United Way, they participated in



Parents and children bundled up December 8 for Community Night at West End Park.



Robin Oxford accepted the Chairman's Award for Rheem Manufacturing, Air Conditioning Division, at Wrap-up.

Dale Carnegie training and shared success and challenges as the campaign progressed."

By the numbers

The campaign produced many successes:

- ♦ 69 new donor companies participated in United Way campaigns.
- ♦ 14 companies increased their giving more than 50%.
- ♦ 96 companies had an overall increase.
- ♦ Two companies raised more than \$200,000, two companies raised more than \$100,000 and eight companies raised more than \$50,000.

"We feel confident that we will be able to reinvest millions back into our community to make an impact on meeting the most pressing needs where we live," added Tilley. "We couldn't raise the money and meet the needs without everyone in this room."

West End Park provides holiday fun

United Way and West End Park partnered to bring free rides on the Merry-go-round and Ferris Wheel to the community Friday, December 8.

The cold weather didn't chill the excitement for young and old alike as they enjoyed the rides.

A special thank you to West End Park for offering this opportunity to United Way partners.

Response Fund provides solutions for community

Special allocations are available to help area non-profits meet emerging or emergency needs.

During the December United Way Board meeting, several area non-profits were awarded money from the United Way Response Fund. The United Way Response Fund is in place to assist organizations with emerging or emergency needs. The following awards were granted.

Interfaith Preschool

Interfaith Preschool - a preschool offered to low-income families at no cost - received \$12,000 to help offset one month of operating expenses.

Single Parent Scholarship Fund

SPSF - offering scholarships to single parents to secure employment to enable them to provide on their own - was awarded \$12,000 for general operating costs of



Christy Williams, Executive Director of Single Parent Scholarship Fund, accepts a Response Fund check from Angela Tilley.

the organization, as well as help with the salary for a full-time director.

Great Beginnings at Belle Point School

Great Beginnings - a day care operated for children whose parents are enrolled in Belle Point School -received \$6,400. The grant is restricted to scholarships for students with children who don't qualify for other assistance with tuition.

United Way Community Partners

Last year, United Way's 32 partner agencies helped men, women, and children find the help they needed.

United Way serves people in six counties including Crawford, Franklin, Logan and Sebastian counties in Arkansas and LeFlore and Sequoyah counties in Oklahoma.

Ensuring Children Succeed

- Boys & Girls Club of Paris
- Boys & Girls Club of Sequoyah County
- Boys & Girls Club of South Logan County
- Fort Smith Boys & Girls Clubs
- Girl Scout Council of Mount Magazine Area
- Girls Incorporated
- Girls Shelter of Fort Smith
- Lincoln Childcare Center
- Ozark Area Youth Organization
- Sebastian County Boys & Girls Club
- Stepping Stone School
- Suburban League
- The Boys Shelter
- Van Buren Boys and Girls Club
- Westark Area Council, Boy Scouts

Building Strong Communities

- Center for Arkansas Legal Services
- Project Compassion

Providing Basic Needs

- Clothes Closet
- Community Dental Clinic
- Community Services Clearinghouse
- River Valley Regional Foodbank
- Salvation Army

Building Adult Independence

- Abilities Unlimited
- ARC for the River Valley
- Community Mentoring Program
- Crisis Center for Women
- Fountain of Youth Adult Day Care
- Gateway House
- Harbor House
- Literacy Council of Western Arkansas
- Next Step Day Room
- Sebastian Retired Citizens Association (SRCA)

Women celebrate holiday and impact in community

Women's Leadership Circle members enjoyed a Christmas lunch November 30 at the home of Jo Lynn Spradlin.

Monica McKinney, Executive Director of Girls, Inc., and Yvonne Keeton-Martin told members of the WLC their involvement with and the importance of early childhood learning.

WLC is a network of women who have joined together to bring real, meaningful responses to one of the most pressing issues facing our community today - ensuring children succeed - by partnering with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

Monica explained the success of Girls, Inc.'s Kindergarten Readiness Camp. Yvonne told members of her experience as a principal at Howard Elementary and the importance of having books in the home at an early age.



Yvonne Keeton-Martin, retired principal, visits with Jan Burd and Donnie Pendergraft about WLC's initiative Imagination Library.



Jo Lynn Spradlin opened her home to WLC members for the annual Christmas lunch.



United Way of Fort Smith Area

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Angela Tilley
- Campaign Director**
Cindy Long
- Campaign Director, Outlying Area**
Sarah Fowler
- Marketing Director**
Linda Kaufenberg
- Office Manager/Bookkeeper**
Angie Ruth
- Office Assistant**
Megan Marquet

Planting seeds of learning in pre-schoolers

The Little Engine That Could, is the first book of 60 that is mailed free to the kindergarten class of 2011 - infants born on or after September 1, 2006 - registered for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in the Fort Smith School District. In partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, United Way's Women's Leadership Circle is targeting at-risk children and providing them with a book a month from birth to age five. This year WLC used more than \$8,000, ten percent of WLC giving, for the Library. Proceeds from WLC's Power of the Purse added nearly \$5,000 to the initiative. Dolly Parton began

Imagination Library in Tennessee because she believed that income should not be a restriction for children to have books in their homes. The initiative has spread to hundreds of communities. "Knowing how to read is the basis for what we all do every-day," noted Angela Tilley, Executive Director. "As a community, we are setting these children on a path of success to help prepare them for kindergarten." The program is available in the Fort Smith School District. As funds become

available, the service area will be expanded. The community can help support literacy by sponsoring a child. Currently, more than 340 children have received books monthly

2006 to age 5 and living in the Fort Smith School District, log onto www.unitedwayfortsmith.org for a form or call 782-1311 with the information.



Meil Partain reads to her daughter Madelene who is enrolled in Imagination Library.

For a \$30 donation, a sponsor provides a book a month for a year; \$150 will provide a book a month for a child from birth to age 5.

Send a check to United Way of Fort Smith Area, P.O. Box 2300, Fort Smith, AR 72902. To register a child - born after September 1,

I spy something green.

Everyday moments can be learning moments with your kids. For more tips, visit www.bornlearning.org

