

Community Matters

A monthly newsletter from your United Way



United Way of Greater Monroe County, MS

United Way Receives Grant for Resource Center

November 2008

It's our 2nd major grant of the year and we could not be more excited!

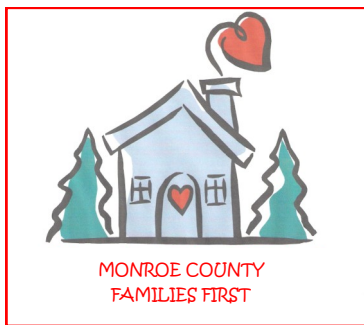
United Way has recently received a grant of \$150,000 to operate a Families First Resource Center in Monroe County.



The goal of our Families First Resource Center (FFRC) is to promote and preserve the family unit. It is a challenging goal, but with the wide range of programs offered under this grant, we are confident that many families across our area will benefit from our services. The FFRC is a wonderful extension to our other Special Initiatives, which are the Arts Across the Ages Program and our GED Program, Way to Work. Projects planned for the FFRC will only compliment the many family activities already in place at Arts Across the Ages and students currently enrolled in our GED Program will be involved in many of our Resource Center programs as well.

Our FFRC will be housed with our other United Way programs at the following locations: 119 South Main Street, Amory and 101 West Commerce Street in Aberdeen.

We have spent a great deal of time this year working to preserve "what works" for Monroe County. This program is no exception. We are very pleased to be able to offer the continuity of services that had been available to Monroe County residents under this grant. For more information about the many ways this project reaches out to families in our area, contact our FFRC Director, Ann Tackett at 369-6997.



Aberdeen Office

124 West Commerce
Aberdeen, Ms 39730
Phone: 662-369-4983

Amory Office

Monroe Co. Gov't Complex
1619 Hwy. 25 N.
Amory, Ms 38821
Phone: 662-257-0557
Fax: 662-257-6468

All Mail

P.O. Box 612
Amory, MS 38821

Web Address

monroecountyunitedway.org

Email

unitedway@monroecountyunitedway.org

Contacts

Lorie Bryant, Projects Manager
Patti H. Parker, Executive Director

Calendar of Events

2009 Campaign
Underway

Call United Way to
schedule your business!

Book Signing Benefit
Saturday, November 8
10am-2pm

Check out United Way's updated
web site

www.monroecountyunitedway.org

United Way Congratulates Board Member on a New Arrival...

Best Wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Michael Freed and big sister Emory on the birth of Loudon Ellis Freed Born October 16, 2008



Join our 2009 Campaign Contributors

Campaigns in Progress and Recently Received Gifts

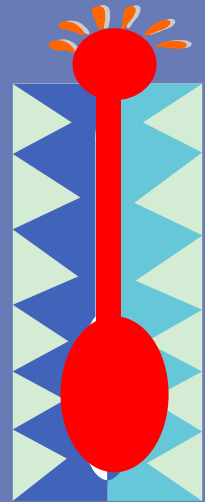
Employee Campaigns

City of Amory
Renasant Bank of Amory
Renasant Bank of Aberdeen
Community Bank
Amory School District
Marketplace Insurance
Atmos Energy
GCM
Cadence Bank of Amory
Cadence Bank of Aberdeen
Bancorp South of Hamilton
Bancorp South of Aberdeen
Amory Housing Authority
Monroe County School District
Texas Eastern
Golden Living
Southern Natural Gas

Corporate and Individual Gifts

Amory Federal
Dr. Robert Cole
Eddie & Linda Holden
Barbara McDonald
Lane Furniture
Kay Hood
Wellman Works
Dr. B.O. Moore
Judge David Houston
Roy Doss
Amory Animal Hospital
Helton Dental Clinic
J.B. Markham
Wanda Wright
Diane Bryant
Dr. & Mrs. Len Pinkley
Dr. Tom Powell
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Brown
Mr. & Mrs. H.L. Robinson
E.E. Pickle Funeral Home

Thank You!



Add your name to our growing list of contributors.

Call 257-0557 to schedule an employee campaign at your business.

United Way Agency: Regional Rehabilitation Center Touches Local Girl's Life

Victoria Burks, resident of Amory, has been a client of the Regional Rehabilitation Center for over sixteen years. She was born with Cerebral Palsy and as a child would travel to Memphis for treatment. One day her doctor at LeBonheur made the comment, *"I don't know why you are coming up here—you have one of the best facilities in your own backyard. The Regional Rehab Center can take care of all your therapeutic needs"*. Thus, Victoria's career began.

Her mom or dad or Paw Paw Redus would travel to Tupelo weekly for her to receive Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy. Because the Rehab Center is a non-profit facility that does not charge the client or his insurance company, clients can receive therapy as long as they are making progress. The Rehab Center staff is counting on having Victoria as part of their team for a long time. She is one of over 326 Monroe County residents who received services at Regional Rehab Center last year. United Way funding is an important part of keeping the Center's doors open and services available to those who need them. You can help support Regional Rehab Center by your donation to United Way this year.

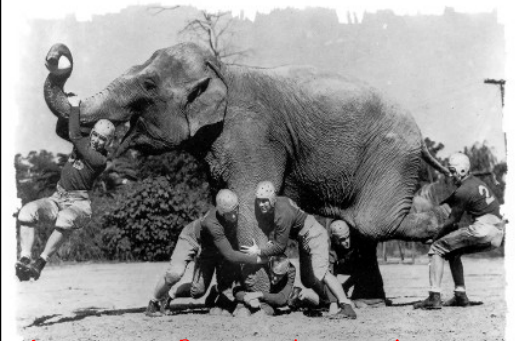


Victoria Burks,
Monroe County
client of Regional
Rehabilitation Center

Regional Rehabilitation Center's Annual "Celebration of Hope" on will be broadcast on Sunday, November 30 from 1p.m.-3p.m.on WTVA Channel 9.

At United Way ...We Tackle Tough Issues

With the addition of our new Families First Resource Center, United Way of Greater Monroe County takes on another set of challenging issues that face our community. But, where there are needs, concerns or problems to address, United Way will be there with the resources to bring about positive change. We focus on “what matters”and what matters is **Community**.



High School Dropouts Parenting Issue Abstinence
Absent Fathers Unemployed & Underemployed
Marriage and Relationship Issues Family Issues

United Way Special Initiatives Include:



Way to Work: Workforce Training Skills for Youth Program targets out-of-school youth who are high school dropouts as well as youth who have graduated but are basic-skills deficient, unemployed, or underemployed. The goal of the program is to lead youth to self-sufficiency through GED attainment; full-time, long-term employment; and/or post-secondary educational opportunities.



United Way of Greater Monroe County Families First Resource Center targets families that are in need of self help support. The goal of the program is to strengthen and preserve the family unit by making support groups, counseling, education, resource material available.

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United Way Agency: Results You Make Possible at FAITH Food Pantry

Story Submitted by: Brenda Adair of F.A.I.T.H. (Food Available In This House) Food Pantry

Not too long ago the newspapers reported, as if it was startling, news that Mississippians were the biggest charitable givers in the United States. This was not a surprise to those of us in this area. Nonprofit organizations are able to reach into the community through the generosity of those around us. When a need is uncovered, individuals and companies both are quick to respond.

In this time of looking to our concerns over elected officials, stock market, and soaring prices both at the grocery check-out and the gas pump it is comforting to realize there are those who are ready to continue the tradition of giving to others.

F.A.I.T.H. Food Pantry, located in Nettleton, reaches clients in both Monroe and Lee Counties. In order to be served, clients are asked to bring proof of identity. This would be a photo I.D. of the person applying and social security numbers for every person residing in the house as well as dates of birth. Also needed are proof of residence such as a recent utility bill and proof of income, either check stub or letter.

No client is asked to lift the box as it is our pleasure to place this box in the car for them. This box is rather heavy as there is enough food in the box to feed one person for a month. Over 70 volunteers are needed each distribution day and others volunteer during the month for preparations for this date.

Many stories have been heard by all our volunteers from very grateful people. We have had people amazed at the kindness and help given to them. Many of our volunteers have been helpers for several years and have established friendships with the clients. We are all here to help each other on the life journey. Some have broken down in tears when told that of course they would be helped. They tearfully told they had nothing and they were begging.

While we get to have the warm feelings of being able to help, none of this would be possible without the money received from the United Way. We could all be there ready to help but there would be nothing to distribute without these funds. Many thanks we give to the United Way workers.

We get to see the results, but you make it possible.

United Way Agency Spotlight: National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence



Story Submitted By: **Doty Vail, Executive Director, NCADD**
National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Northeast Mississippi, Inc.

In August 2008, we received a call from a mother in Monroe County regarding her adult son that was in the Monroe County jail for a 3rd DUI charge. She inquired about getting help for her son.

We made an appointment for her to come in and discuss the situation. She wanted to know what a family could do to when a loved one did not think he had a real problem with drugs and alcohol. We talked with her about how "denial" is common in persons with an addiction. We gave her information on volunteer treatment Options (where person agrees to get help) and information regarding a court-ordered treatment, or commitment, to the State Hospital (when they refuse to volunteer to get help). We explained that court-ordered treatment should only be used as a last resort and necessary to save the persons life. We explained the nature and patterns of alcoholism and drug dependence and gave her information on AL-Anon family group meetings that help loved ones cope with the stress and anxiety of living with an addicted loved one. We invited her to come in to our office and look over our wide variety of informational and educational brochures and other helpful publications. We also invited her to come by for coffee and visit with us if more information was needed or if she just needed to talk. She thanked us for our help and planned to call back to make an appointment for a free, confidential drug and alcohol assessment for her son when he was released from jail.

This is a typical daily call. We receive over 3,000 such calls each year. Many of those of those calls are from Monroe County.

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) is an United Way of Greater Monroe County Member Agency. NCADD provides information, education, help and hope for addicted adolescence and adults. NCADD also provides free confidential assessments and referrals to treatments.

NCADD is located on 200 N. Spring St., Tupelo. For more information about services offered, NCADD, can be contacted by phone at 662-841-0403 or the web at webmaster@ncadd.net and www.recoverysuperstore.com.

Support United Way: Benefit Book Sale & Signing



Join Local Author, Pat Brannon
along with
Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus
at
Christmas Open House

Saturday, November 8 * 10am-2pm
LaLa & Company, Main Street North, Amory



Help Fill Santa's Bag
to benefit
Amory Food Pantry
Canned Food Drive
November 8-26th

Books Available:

[Filthy Farley O'Charlie McBarley](#)

[Walk Softly \(You're Steppin On My Heart!\)](#)

Register for a
LaLa & Company \$50 Gift Certificate
for every can you donate!
Drawing November 26.

Bring your kids to have their pictures made with Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus!
A portion of the proceeds benefit United Way and Amory Food Pantry!