

Community Matters

A monthly newsletter from your United Way



United Way of Greater Monroe County, MS

Would you help "Fill the Stocking?"

It's okay to admit it... We've all been there.

Wondering what goodies will fill your Christmas stocking is not only the happy pastime of children at this time of year.



Even us grown-ups can't help but wonder what our Special Santa may have slipped way down in the toe of our stocking on Christmas morning.

At United Way, we're literally placing our stockings all around our community and hoping that they will be filled by good folks who understand that the true spirit of the holiday season is embodied in giving to others.

Now through the month of December, when you see one of our bright red Stockings displayed in the window at one of our participating merchants, please take the time to donate \$1 to help your United Way.

When you do you'll be helping to fill the stocking for thousands of individuals who benefit from United Way services all year around.

Look for United Way's "Stockings" at the following locations: All Amory S & J Chevron Stations, Dollar General Amory, RiverBirch Grill, Making Waves Salon, and many others.

Way to Work : Working to Improve Lives



Rachele improves her life as well as her daughter's through the our Way to Work Program.

When we began our GED Program, we knew that the unique services we would provide could make the kind of life impact that no other GED program could.

Rachele's story typifies the positive results we have seen from our program .

Hardship comes in many forms, but for Rachele it meant overcoming the death of her nine day old baby, and escaping an abusive relationship. With her two year old daughter, Rachele sought to improve her life when she found the United Way of Greater Monroe County GED program, "Way to Work". Our program is a WIA Program funded through the Three Rivers Planning and Development District. She was the perfect candidate for the youth program; her skills were twelfth grade level, but she had dropped out of high school when she was in tenth grade. She needed study skills, counseling, and someone to advocate on her behalf.

Rachele signed up for the program and soon got her GED. With Christmas approaching, she needed money for every day life, as well as the extra expenses of the season, and we helped find her a job. Although working in a linens store and folding sheets was not her favorite thing to do, she never complained and worked until her ten weeks were up. She left the job with an excellent reference from her employer and is now currently enrolled full time at Itawamba Community College, soon to transfer to the University of Mississippi with the hope and determination to become an attorney.

At United Way, our job is to improve lives and improve our community. It is always rewarding for us to help people overcome the seemingly impossible obstacles in their lives.

Dec. 2008-Jan. 2009

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

Patti H. Parker, Executive Director

Calendar of Events

2009 Campaign
Underway

Call United Way to
schedule your business!

Look for United Way's
"Fill the Stocking
"Participants

Contact United Way to
purchase Christmas
Ornament Honorariums
by December 5



Join our 2009 Campaign Contributors

Campaigns in Progress and Recently Received Gifts

Employee Campaigns	Corporate and Individual Gifts	
City of Amory	Amory Federal	Dr. B.O. Moore
Renasant Bank of Amory	Dr. Robert Cole	Judge David Houston
Renasant Bank of Aberdeen	Eddie & Linda Holden	Roy Doss
Community Bank	Barbara McDonald	Mr. & Mrs. John Correnti
Amory School District	Lane Furniture	
Marketplace Insurance	Kay Hood	
Atmos Energy	Wellman Works	
GCM	Helton Dental Clinic	
Cadence Bank of Amory	J.B. Markham	
Cadence Bank of Aberdeen	Wanda Wright	
Bancorp South of Hamilton	Diane Bryant	
Bancorp South of Aberdeen	Dr. & Mrs. Len Pinkley	
Amory Housing Authority	Dr. Tom Powell	
Monroe County School District	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Brown	
Texas Eastern	Mr. & Mrs. H.L. Robinson	
ITT	E.E. Pickle Funeral Home	
Southern Natural Gas	Dr. Thomas B. Shepherd, Jr.	
Aberdeen RV	C&D Lumber Company	
Lane Furniture	Mr. & Mrs. Johnny Leech	
Gilmore Memorial Regional Medical Center	Amory Animal Hospital	



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 Grant Reminders



United Way's 2009 grant process has already begun. Agencies must return their completed 2009 Funding Applications to United Way's Amory location. Please make sure that all applications are complete. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Fund Distribution Committee Meetings will be held in late January. Agencies will be contacted with information about their meeting dates and times.

United Way is currently accepting volunteers to serve on the Fund Distribution Committee. If you would like to volunteer, please contact United Way at 257-0557.

Application deadline - December 16, 2007, 12:00 noon

Completed Applications Accepted only at the Amory Office, Monroe County Gov't Complex.



Give Christmas Ornament Honorariums to Support United Way



Provide Comfort and Joy During the 12 Days of Christmas and Beyond!!!

Wondering what to give that special someone on your Christmas List? Make their 2008 Holidays extra special by honoring your friends and family with gifts to United Way of Greater Monroe County.



Last year United Way of Greater Monroe County provided almost 60,000 services to people in our community. This included feeding the hungry, sheltering children in crisis, rehabilitation services for the disabled, respite care for Alzheimer's patients, emergency housing for fire victims, art enrichments camps for children, activities for retired senior citizens, meals on wheels, and much, much more....

By honoring your friends and family, you will help these services continue in our community. Like the 12 Days of Christmas and the many joys they bring, our "Day in the Life" story on page 4 shows how your gift to United Way provides help and hope, comfort and joy, during just one typical day.

Each person you honor with a \$50 gift to United Way will receive a richly detailed Christmas ornament with delicate red and green lacquer accents which comes in a unique Christmas card. Your ornament will also include, in a light-hearted way, a description of the services provided by the gift. The enclosed card will read:

12 Days of Christmas Blessings...Given in Your Honor

*"For the 12 Days of Christmas, Mr. & Mrs. X have sent to thee....
12 meals delivered, 11 children sheltered, 10 casseroles provided, 9 kids at art camp,
8 hours of respite care, 7 baby blankets, 6 visits with a shut-in,
5 dropouts who got their GED, 4 bags of groceries, 3 First Aid classes, 2 warm coats
and a beautiful new ornament for your tree!"*

*Send your Christmas Honorariums today. See Page 4 for Order Form.
Must be received by December 5 to ensure timely delivery.*



Agency Spotlight: Sally Kate Winters Family Services

It's a story that is repeated more times than any of us would like to think. However, United Way funds help keep children safe at agencies like Sally Kate Winters Family Services.

Submitted by Sheila Brand, Executive Director, Sally Kate Winters Family Services

Three siblings ages 11, 10, and 7 were recently placed in emergency shelter due to physical abuse and neglect. When their home environment became unbearable, the children managed to escape out of a window and leave the neighborhood with a stranger. These children found safety, shelter, and food in a supportive environment through services offered by Sally Kate Winters Family Services. In addition to meeting their basic needs, staff and volunteers provided educational tutoring for the children. Teacher meetings, homework, and school projects were all part of their academic success during their transition. The outcome of our efforts and the determination of these children was validated for the 10-year old child when she made the All A's list for her school. A sense of hope and accomplishment is a blessing for her life.

United Way dollars allow our program to provide school supplies and educational opportunities for each child to experience a supportive academic environment. School pictures and field trips are school related activities in which many of our children have not been able to participate. This is just one example of United Way dollars at work, affecting the lives of children in our community.

"A Day in the Life of Your United Way"

- 8:00 a.m.** Youth from local [Monroe County 4-H](#) clubs wrap up an early morning meeting to plan their next community project.
- 9:00 a.m.** A single mother recently laid off from her job receives food from [Faith Food Pantry](#) in Nettleton just as volunteers finish packing 450 boxes of food to be distributed this week.
- 10:00 a.m.** [Retired Senior Volunteer Program](#) volunteers meet at the [Arts Across the Ages Center](#) to make casseroles for [Women First](#) cancer patients.
- 11:00 a.m.** Senior citizens, disabled and home-bound clients of [Amory Meals on Wheels](#) enjoy a nutritious meal delivered right to their door.
- Noon** Our new "Mommy and Me" class for new mothers is just wrapping up at our [Monroe County Families First Resource Center](#) in Amory.
- 1:00 p.m.** Parenting classes are just beginning at our [Monroe County Families First Resource Center](#) in Aberdeen.
- 2:00 p.m.** Participants at [First Friends Alzheimer's Day Care](#) are finishing up a day of music, crafts and fellowship.
- 3:00 p.m.** Excited kids rush to their afternoon scout troop meetings with uniforms and books purchased through a [United Way Scouting Venture Grant](#).
- 4:00 p.m.** A child with a cerebral palsy splashes happily in the pool as he begins his water therapy program at the [Regional Rehabilitation Center](#) Physical Therapy Department
- 5:00 p.m.** The nightly meal is lovingly prepared at [Faith Haven Children's Shelter](#).
- 6:00 p.m.** You're getting home from work, but things are just getting started at the [Gardner Simmons Home for Girls](#) and [Alpha House Home for Boys](#). With as many as twelve boys or girls at each home, there is always a flurry of activity.
- 7:00 p.m.** Young people with drug or alcohol problems are counseled at an evening session led by the [National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependency](#).
- 8:00 p.m.** A needy family is able to put food on empty shelves after having been served this morning at the [Amory Food Pantry](#).
- 9:00 p.m.** [Survival, Inc.](#) is called in by police to counsel with a family that has experienced a homicide.
- 10:00 p.m.** Area youth are returning home from a Fellowship Christian Athletes' character building program made possible by a [United Way Venture Grant](#).
- 11:00 p.m.** An emergency call places two neglected girls with the caring staff of [Gardner Simmons Home for Girls](#).
- Midnight** A young wife and mother turns out her light and says a prayer of thanks for the [Women First](#) Cancer Support Group, who are helping her through a very difficult time.
- 1:00 a.m.** House parents at [Faith Haven Children's Shelter](#) keep a watchful eye over all the children in their care.
- 2:00 a.m.** A crisis call is answered by a [Contact Helpline](#) volunteer working the night shift.
- 3:00 a.m.** Emergency medical equipment purchased with a [United Way Venture Grant](#) helps a local Volunteer Fire Department save the life of a man who is having a heart attack.
- 4:00 a.m.** An abandoned baby is fed, clothed and comforted at the [Sally Kate Winter's Children's Shelter](#).
- 5:00 a.m.** A family's house burns and the [American Red Cross](#) is there to give them shelter, clothes and counseling.
- 6:00 a.m.** [Contact Helpline](#) volunteers make their first calls to the clients in their Reassurance Program. These are elderly, disabled, or home-bound people who volunteers call each day just to check in and reassure them that someone who cares is as close as their phone.
- 7:00 a.m.** GED students who are enrolled in our [Way to Work: Workforce Training Skills for Youth Program](#) are on their way to class. This program also places them in valuable job experience as they attain their GED.
- 8:00 a.m.** *You are asked to give to United Way at your workplace. You think of all the people who have been helped in the last 24 hours and give generously.*

Christmas Ornament Honorarium Order Form



Your Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone # and email address: _____

_____ Total Number of Ornament Christmas Cards

_____ Amount Enclosed – check/cash (\$50.00 per ornament, minimum amount please)

To ensure that your United Way ornament honorariums are accurate and delivered on time, please print legibly or type the name and address of each of your honorees, using additional sheets if necessary.

In Honor of _____ In Honor of _____

Address _____ Address _____

City, State Zip _____ City, State Zip _____

Orders must be received by December 5, 2008.

This form may be faxed to 257-6468 or returned by mail to P.O. Box 612 Amory, MS 38821.