

# Community Matters

A monthly newsletter from your United Way



## United Way of Greater Monroe County, MS

### Mark Your Calendar



United Way's 11th Annual Golf Tournament is right around the corner. So, mark your calendar for a tee time on Saturday, August 29 at River Birch Golf Club.

United Way's Annual Golf Tournament is our largest annual event. Community support for our Golf Tournament has been a vital part of its success. Our tournament partners have helped United Way to fund local agencies such as food pantries,

children's homes and scouting.

This year especially, we understand the challenges as unemployment is on the rise in our area. Even though United Way has sought out and received additional funding for special projects, those funds are restricted and can not be used by our Member Agencies. More than ever, our agencies need your continued support.



So, mark your calendar and contact United Way at 257-0557 to register. See page 2 for team package information.



### July 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](http://monroecountyunitedway.org)

#### Email

[unitedway@monroecountyunitedway.org](mailto:unitedway@monroecountyunitedway.org)

#### Contacts

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

### Calendar of Events

11th Annual Golf  
Tournament

See page 2

Arts Across the Ages

Chef Camp for Kids

See page 3

Contact United Way to make  
Memorials or Honorariums

Check out United Way's  
updated web site

[www.monroecountyunitedway.org](http://www.monroecountyunitedway.org)



### United Way CNA Graduate Pinning Ceremony



Patti H. Parker speaks about United Way's Student Nursing Program during the pinning Ceremony.

The United Way Student Nursing Academy held the Pinning Ceremony for its Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) graduates on Friday, June 19. Patti H. Parker, United Way Director, opened the ceremony by congratulating the graduating students and commending them for their hard work and dedication. According to Parker this program gives young

adults interested in a career in nursing a wonderful opportunity to jump start that career. Students may now further their education. Each of them now have a better understanding of the nursing medical field.

Pinning Ceremony Story Continued on Page 2



Rene Harris, RN Instructor and Valerie Collins were on hand to pin the graduating students.

**Saturday, August 29th**  
**4-Person Scramble**  
**River Birch Golf Club**  
**Amory, Ms**

### HOLE SPONSORSHIP

COMPANY OR INDIVIDUAL \* \$150

- Sign on Course
- Listing in Tournament Flyer
- Newspaper Advertisements
- United Way Recognition Award



### PICK YOUR PACKAGE & GO FOR THE WORKS!

#### **BASIC PACKAGE:**

\$260 PER TEAM  
Includes cart, range balls, meal & gift bag



#### **Intermediate Package:**

\$280 PER TEAM  
Includes cart, range balls, meal & gift bag  
**PLUS 4 BLUE TEES PER TEAM**

#### **THE WORKS PACKAGE:**

\$300 PER TEAM  
Includes cart, range balls, meal, gift bag & 4 Blue Tees  
**PLUS 4 MULLIGANS PER TEAM**

8 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. Tee Times \* First Come First Serve

To pre-register mail team name and entrance fee to:  
UNITED WAY OF GREATER MONROE COUNTY \* P.O. BOX 612 \* AMORY, MS 38821

**For more information call: Patti H. Parker 257-0557 or RiverBirch 256-3419**

**MUST Pre-register and pre-pay by August 28th**

## Pinning Ceremony Continued

Keynote speakers for the luncheon included: Director; Valerie Collins, Professional Solutions Group, LLC; Rene Harris, RN Instructor and Angie Minor, RN Instructor.

Our program was funded by a grant from the Bower Foundation through the Office of Nursing Workforce. Valerie Collins, our grant liaison, was on hand to present a CNA pin for each of the graduates from the United Way Student Nursing Program.

The following fifteen students completed the Student Nursing Academy program: Hannah Avery, Laken Brewer, Dreama Gardner, Devisha Hairston, Mari Caitlyne Harris, Courtney Irvin, Tiffany Langley, Molly Murphree, Megan Nethery, Hannah Northington, Megan Oswald, Kim Stanford, Victoria Trimble, Amber Williams and Jennifer Wilson.



Valerie Collins from the Professional Solutions Group, LLC congratulates the graduating students.



Students present an autograph picture to United Way, as a token of appreciation to them for the program.



United Way Student Nursing Academy graduates.



# United Way Arts Across the Ages "POP ON OVER" ART EXHIBITION



"Art ...It's Poppin' " was the theme for the United Way Arts Across the Ages Summer Art Camp Program. Sixty-five students attended the camps where an art based study of Modern Pop Artists was the focus. LeeAnn Thompson, art instructor at New Albany schools, was on hand again this year to instruct our summer art camps.

On the evening of June 18, over 110 people attended a reception and art exhibit featuring the camp participants' work called "Pop on Over". In keeping with the fun theme of modern pop art, refreshments served included popcorn, baby bottle pop candy and Pop-Tarts. Below parents and students alike were able to enjoy the fun theme while they viewed all the students' very creative art work.



## United Way Arts Across the Ages Summer Enrichment Camp

presents

### Chef Summer Camp

featuring

### Chef Brandy Lindsey

Honors Graduate of The Culinary Institute of New Orleans  
Licensed MS. Teacher & Culinary Arts Instructor

**Monday, July 13 & Tuesday, July 14**  
**from 9a.m. - 11:30a.m.**

**For students who have completed 4th grade - 6th grade**

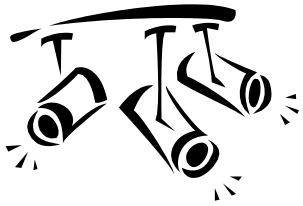
*\$15 per child per camp. Cost includes all materials, supplies and snack.*



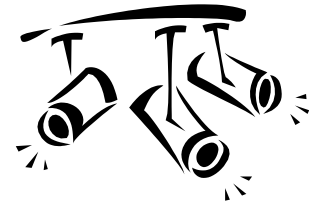
Brandy has served as  
Sous Chef for  
Chef Cat Cora  
&  
Food Network's  
Guy Fieri at the  
Viking Golf Classic in 2008

# CHEF

# Call United Way at 257-0557 to register today!



# United Way Spotlight



Article Submitted by:  
**Survival, Inc.**

**Survival sends out a bi-monthly newsletter to survivors of homicide victims. In this we provide information regarding the justice system and most importantly stories and poems written by other victims.**

We received an unsolicited letter from the mother of a young Monroe County man who was murdered in 1999. Even though it's been several years since we've had contact with her except through the newsletter, she wrote the sweetest note a couple of months ago.

In it, she talks about that eventful day as she remembers him coming by her home that Sunday evening to eat and leaving with a "see you later" from the doorway. That was the last time she saw her son alive. She went on to talk about how the family was learning to live without him; how the man who killed him was paroled after only 5 years but had been sent back to jail on another charge. She's frustrated because the man received more jail time for drug charges than for killing her son.

This a quote from her letter, "I have been reading your newsletters for years and getting inspiration from them. Today is a bad day and I picked up your newsletter and just wanted to say thank you.....this is my wish for everyone going through a dark time to have a shoulder to cry on and a group like yours to draw support from. Again, Thank you!"

She closed her letter with one of our all-time favorite quotes: "Grief is simply a statement that you have loved someone." How true.

Survival, Inc. is a United Way Agency that provides outreach to victims of violent crime including survivors of homicide, enabling them to reconstruct their lives and develop something positive from their tragedy. Survival, Inc. holds monthly support groups for adults and children. Contact Survival, Inc. at 1-888-915-7788 for more information about the services they offer.



## Way to Grow: Summer Discovery Program



**A summer enrichment program called, "Way To Grow: Summer Discovery Program", was recently offered by the United Way of Greater Monroe County Families First Resource Center.**

The purpose of this program was to reinforce Pre-K skills of children entering kindergarten and for children entering 2nd and 3rd grades. Students rotated between three learning stations. Each child's progress was tracked and documented following the MS Dept. of Education Benchmarks.

In order to demonstrate the math, reading and language skills learned during the two week program, students operated a lemonade stand on the last day of the program. Students managed all aspects of running the lemonade stand, from taking and filling orders, making change and running a cash register. The 2nd and 3rd graders operated their lemonade stand at our Aberdeen location. The pre-kindergarten students held theirs at our Amory location. Our Way to Grow Program was funded in part by a grant from the Dollar General Foundation.