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FORWARD TO A FRIEND >

United Way of Ventura County

**LIVE UNITED**



GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

E-NEWS FROM YOUR UNITED WAY  
April 2017

## President's Message

Dear Friends,

Do you believe that a local, autonomous United Way in Ventura County is as vital today as it was when it was founded in 1945? Let me share with you why I do. Over 351,000 households in Ventura County struggle to meet basic needs. That's roughly 25% of our community, and they need our help. The good news is they have you, our local community champions who demonstrate what it means to be of service.

[Today, we're asking you to rise to the occasion and help us close our end of year gap goal of \\$17,000. Your donation will ensure that we continue to thrive in uncertain times and plan for tomorrow.](#)

Imagine all children having access to a dental home and no longer suffering from pain and lack of concentration in the classroom. Imagine a struggling family receiving an Earned Income Tax Credit refund that enabled them to pay their rent and utilities. Imagine a senior calling 2-1-1 for relief and receiving much needed help. Tears are dried, solutions are provided and resources are accessed. But all that is only possible because of your continued support and service.

Together, united, we champion the underserved. We do it because our calling today is the same as it was

## Give.

To make the greatest difference, direct your contribution to the **Community Impact Fund**, which supports the focus areas of **Education, Income, and Health**. We also process restricted contributions to qualified 501(c)3 organizations. [Thank you for supporting us and your community!](#)



## Advocate.

You can make change happen with your voice. United Way needs people who are passionate about education, income, and health to make some noise.

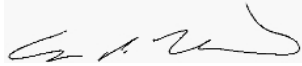
Visit us online

at: [vcunitedway.org/advocate](http://vcunitedway.org/advocate) to stay informed. If you would like to become involved in our advocacy work, please email us at: [info@vcunitedway.org](mailto:info@vcunitedway.org).

## Volunteer.

Get involved in your community!  
[Find a volunteer opportunity today.](#)

72 years ago when we opened our doors. We are there for those in need when they need us most. And, we thank you for being a champion.



**Eric Harrison**  
President & CEO  
United Way of Ventura County



**CHANGE**  
STARTS HERE.  
CAN WE COUNT YOU IN?



United Way of  
Ventura County

To learn more, visit us at:  
[www.vcunitedway.org](http://www.vcunitedway.org)

**1ST ANNUAL WOMEN UNITED LUNCHEON**

**UNITED WAY**  
**WOMEN UNITED**<sup>®</sup>

**WOMEN UNITED 1ST ANNUAL LUNCHEON**

**LEADING THE CHARGE. INSPIRING CHANGE.**



**GUEST SPEAKER - LATEEFAH SIMON**  
2003 MacArthur Fellow

Named "2005 California Woman of the Year"  
by California State Assembly

- Raised by a single mother
- A single mother herself
- Struggled with child care costs and funding while finding the time to pursue higher education

A tireless advocate and change agent for the underserved, Lateefah devotes her life's work to helping the poor and disadvantaged.

**THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2017**

11:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

**CALIFORNIA LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY**  
**LUNDRING EVENT CENTER**

50 West Olsen Road, Thousand Oaks, CA

**TABLE OF 8: \$600 OR \$75 PER PERSON**

Tables & Sponsorship Opportunities available now!

To purchase tickets, to to [www.vcunitedway.org](http://www.vcunitedway.org)

**RSVP**

[Vicki.Raven@vcunitedway.org](mailto:Vicki.Raven@vcunitedway.org) | 805-845-6288 x229

**BUILDING HEALTHY SMILES INITIATIVE**



Building Healthy Smiles recently organized an oral health assessment event at Mar Vista Elementary School in Oxnard on March 29, 2017. Working in partnership with the Ocean View School District and Clinicas del Camino Real, we provided oral health assessments and fluoride varnish to over 100 children at the school. Clinicas will follow up with the parents of children whose teeth were found to have some decay to encourage them to get treatment. Children at the school participated in an oral health presentation conducted by Clinicas Health Education staff and children who saw the dentist received an oral health kit with a toothbrush, toothpaste and floss. A follow-up oral health assessment day is being planned at Mar Vista to see the remaining children at the school who could not visit the dentist due to time constraints. For more information about the community events or to learn about how to bring an event to your school or organization, please contact Catherine Pedrosa, Outreach and Education Specialist at (805) 485-6288 x 270 or [Catherine.pedrosa@vcunitedway.org](mailto:Catherine.pedrosa@vcunitedway.org).

**STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**



United Way of Ventura County is looking for volunteers 21+ to help work the wine booth at the Strawberry Festival on May 20 and/or May 21. Please join our team, volunteers get free admission to the festival for the day. For more information, visit [www.volunteerventuracounty.org/need/detail/?need\\_id=251461](http://www.volunteerventuracounty.org/need/detail/?need_id=251461).

## DAY OF CARING IS LOOKING FOR PROJECTS



Day of Caring is an incredible opportunity to showcase your work to the community, establish relationships with local businesses, and tackle large and small projects at your agency that otherwise may not get accomplished.

Plan a creative worthwhile project that volunteers will enjoy and that will make an impact on the services you provide.

**Day of Caring projects must be provided by nonprofit organizations, public service agencies, and schools.**

Projects that support United Way's focus areas of **Income, Health, or Education** will be given priority.

**Day of Caring this year will be held on Saturday, September 16, from 9:00 a.m. to**

noon.

**Volunteer project ideas can include:**

**Landscaping**

- Community gardening
- Plant flowers, grass, community garden, weed flower beds, mulch

**Client Based**

- Reading with children/elderly
- Deliver lunches, friendly visits
- Clean, organize facility, toys, books
- Wash windows, vehicles

**Administrative**

- Bulk mailing, inventory supplies, shred old files

**Miscellaneous**

- Make deliveries, sorting, packing
- Update playground equipment, assemble furniture, hold a bike repair workshop
- Install smoke detectors

**Painting**

- Walls, trim, doors, murals, furniture

For Day of Caring project application, please visit [www.volunteerventuracounty.org](http://www.volunteerventuracounty.org) and scroll down to the spotlight.

For more information contact Teresa Casas at: [Teresa.Casas@vcunitedway.org](mailto:Teresa.Casas@vcunitedway.org) or 805-485-6288 x233.

**NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK**

**APRIL**  
23<sup>rd</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>



MOBILIZE. BUILD. INSPIRE.

National Volunteer Week is an opportunity to recognize and thank volunteers who lend their time, talent, voice, and support to causes they care about in their



community. Service Unites, the theme for National Volunteer Week, captures the power of change makers to come together to build stronger, more vibrant communities through service. For the past 12 years, Ventura County volunteers have come together in support of the *Earn It! Keep It! Save It!* Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program assisting low/moderate income earners by preparing state and federal tax returns free of charge and helping them access the tax credits to which they are eligible.

Dina Ontiveras of Oxnard has been a volunteer with *Earn It! Keep It! Save It!* since its inception in 2005. Dina stated, "When I find out how much people pay for having taxes prepared, I am motivated to continue providing volunteer services to those who cannot afford to pay for tax preparation. Life is expensive in Ventura County and the return of tax dollars helps ease the cost of living here for the working class."

Natascha Perez, also of Oxnard, has accounting, bookkeeping and real estate experience. This was her first time volunteering with VITA. She shared, "I am excited to be a part of the team, volunteering has offered me a whole range of skills that I can apply to my future plans. Giving time to support causes you are passionate about can help you learn about yourself. Set your goal and come forward. it is never too late to contribute or learn new skills."

Camarillo resident and retired Senior Deputy District Attorney, Pam Grossman has been a VITA volunteer for the past 5 years. "I am currently a volunteer with several different programs but I especially enjoy the training and opportunity offered by United Way through the VITA program," she reflected. "Learning keeps me motivated and working with people keeps me inspired. Each day volunteering with VITA has been incredibly satisfying whether it's sharing information or learning with other volunteers or the gratitude and appreciation that each person you assist shows to you."

This year Moorpark College offered VITA as an internship program for school credit. Shannon Johnson, Work Experience Coordinator at the college, reflects about the value of the program, "The partnership between Moorpark College and the VITA program has provided students with academically and personally rewarding experiences. Students were able to become IRS-certified tax preparers, while working one-on-one with a diverse client base. Students have been able to reinforce their classroom learning with hands-on, real world work and they realized they can engage in career development in socially meaningful ways." Moorpark College intern student Michael Burr shared, "My VITA experience has been wonderful. The people are always appreciative to have their tax return completed. I am getting a great deal of satisfaction by participating and it has been a great learning experience. I plan to volunteer again next year."

VITA volunteers participate in training and/or self study, complete certification testing, and give a minimum of four hours per week during the tax season. So to our more

than seventy skilled VITA volunteers, and to all Ventura County volunteers, thank you for giving back to help make ours a strong and vibrant community.

## GET READY TO *STUFF THE BUS*



The 2017 *Stuff the Bus* campaign is right around the corner. Collection of school supplies runs June 21 through July 21.

Keep an eye out for more details soon!

## CELEBRATING THE RED FEATHER LEADERSHIP SOCIETY







## SAVE THE DATE - 2017 SPIRIT AWARDS GALA

Sponsorship Opportunities are now available for our 13th Annual Spirit Awards Gala taking place on Saturday, August 26th at the Four Seasons Hotel - Westlake Village.

Reserve your spot for this year's Gala TODAY! Contact Vicki Raven to learn more at: 805-485-6288 ext. 229, [Vicki.Raven@vcunitedway.org](mailto:Vicki.Raven@vcunitedway.org).

[2017 Sponsorship Form - Event Sponsorship Opportunities](#)  
[2017 Sponsorship Form - Ads & Ticket options](#)

**SAVE THE DATE**

Please join us for the  
**13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
SPIRIT  
AWARDS  
GALA**

United Way of Ventura County  
13th Annual Spirit Awards Gala

Saturday, August 26, 2017  
Four Seasons Hotel,  
Westlake Village  
Upscale Attire Required

For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Vicki Raven at  
(805) 485-6288, ext. 229 or email [Vicki.Raven@vcunitedway.org](mailto:Vicki.Raven@vcunitedway.org)  
Early bird tickets bought before June 30th \$175 and after \$200

**LIVE UNITED**  
United Way  
United Way of  
Ventura County  
[vcunitedway.org](http://vcunitedway.org)

## AMAZON SMILE

In a few simple steps, you can help support United Way of Ventura County when you shop on Amazon.com.



**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.



Step 1: Visit: [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)  
Step 2: Select a charitable organization from almost one million eligible organizations. We're listed as **United Way of Ventura County**.

Step 3: Once you confirm your designated charity of choice, YOU'RE DONE!  
Just remember to shop on AmazonSmile at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.05% of the purchase price to your designated charitable organization.

## THANK YOU TO OUR TOP SUPPORTERS

Aera Energy LLC - AT&T - Amgen - Automobile Club - Bank of America  
California Lutheran University - California State Employees - City of Camarillo  
City of Moorpark - Community Memorial Hospital - Costco - County of Ventura  
Edison International - Enterprise Holdings - Exxon Mobil Corporation  
Farmers Insurance - FedEx - Kaiser Permanente - Macy's - Monsanto  
Procter & Gamble - Southern California Gas Co. - Target  
United Parcel Service - Union Bank - Wells Fargo Bank

### TEXT TO GIVE!

Did you know that United Way of Ventura County has gone mobile? Make a \$10 donation to the United Way's Community Impact Fund using your cellphone. Your donation counts! Simply text the keyword **UWVC** to **41444**. Standard message & data rates apply.

### SPREAD THE WORD!

Forward this e-newsletter

You can LIVE UNITED by helping us spread the word. Imagine how many people we could reach if everyone forwards this newsletter to five people.

+ TELL YOUR FRIENDS



United Way of Ventura County, 4001 Mission Oaks Blvd., Suite E, Camarillo, CA 93012  
Ph: (805) 485-6288 email: [info@vcunitedway.org](mailto:info@vcunitedway.org)

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Questions? Email: [info@vcunitedway.org](mailto:info@vcunitedway.org)  
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Try it FREE today.

United Way of Ventura County | 4001 Mission Oaks Blvd | Suite E | Camarillo | CA | 93012