

United Way of Ventura County

LIVE UNITED



GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

E-NEWS FROM YOUR UNITED WAY  
June 2017

## President's Message

Dear Friends,

There are many caring nonprofits throughout Ventura County, but one of the most caring is Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation (CEDC). A long-standing community partner of United Way's, CEDC is truly a champion of the underserved. That's why I'm excited to share that this December we'll be moving in to CEDC's building at 702 County Square Drive in Ventura. Our new location is a responsible move that will save us nearly \$750,000 over the course of our new 7-year lease term, and that, ultimately, benefit our community.



CEDC partners with United Way on a variety of programs, including the successful Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program that generated \$2.5 million in returns to low-income

individuals and families. We also partner on AmeriCorps and our volunteer literacy program, Books Bonanza. "This is an exciting time for United Way and Cabrillo," said Margarita de Escontrias, CEDC's CEO. "We have compatible missions, and we are proud of our long-standing partnership, which has helped those most in need living in our affordable communities, especially our children. With our shared location, we look forward

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

## Volunteer.

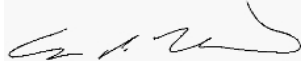
Get involved in your community!  
[Find a volunteer opportunity today.](#)

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

to even more opportunities to collaborate."

Collaboration that results in collective impact is at the very core of our mission. We are fortunate to have partners like CEDC at our side, and more lives will be changed as a result. That's what it means to LIVE UNITED.

In service,



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



**United Way of  
Ventura County**

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

## 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).

*Buy Tickets*

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

**SAVE THE DATE**

Please join us for the  
**13TH 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  
Early bird tickets bought before June 30th \$175 and after \$200

**LIVE UNITED**  
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vcunitedway.org

**1ST ANNUAL WOMEN UNITED LUNCHEON A HUGE SUCCESS**



On May 18, a sold out audience came together at California Lutheran University for the 1st Annual Women United Luncheon, sponsored by California Lutheran University and Sage Publishing.

Women United leaders are a diverse, vibrant group within United Way bound together by a powerful sense of belonging. With over 70,000+ members strong in 165 communities in six countries, these women have raised \$1 billion for United

Way. Women United brings together community and business leaders, providing opportunities for networking and volunteerism.

A nationally-recognized advocate for civil rights, guest speaker Lateefah Simon's had the audience spellbound with her speech, which was so moving it brought many in the audience to tears. Lateefah shared the story of her struggles as a single parent and recounted how she overcame numerous obstacles to be where she is now. At the end of her speech, she received a standing ovation from everyone in the audience.

The luncheon raised important funding to assist single mothers in Ventura County and raised awareness about Women United's mission. As mentioned at our luncheon, the focus of Women United is to support single mothers in poverty. We believe that with financial literacy, coaching, and education, these women can move from poverty to self-sufficiency. Your support is an investment in single mothers. Together, we can reduce the high number of single mothers living in poverty in Ventura County.



At the luncheon, Lateefah Simon said, "If we work together, we can win together... we are Cyclones." Our first luncheon was the start of a strong empowering group of women ready to make change.

Your tremendous spirit and compassion for our neighbors empowers us to accomplish great things. On behalf of United Way of Ventura County, thank you for your generous support and investment in building a brighter future for our Ventura County single mothers.

If you would like to become a Women United member or volunteer on a committee, please email [Vicki.Raven@vcunitedway.org](mailto:Vicki.Raven@vcunitedway.org).

## Thank you to our event sponsors!

## SINGLE MOMS GET MAKEOVERS

Women United partnered with stylists from California-based women's retailer cabi to provide new outfits for 75 single mothers at the Ventura County Community Foundation in Camarillo on May 13. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ventura County, RAIN in Oxnard, and Many Mansions in Thousand Oaks helped organize the event and find the women to receive the new clothes.



JOIN WOMEN UNITED TODAY

**JOIN NOW.**

**IGNITE CHANGE.**

**GET INVOLVED.**

**WOMEN UNITED®**

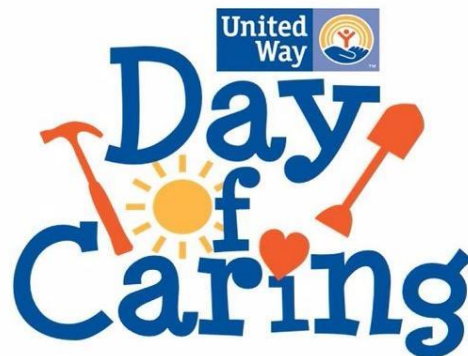
## GET READY TO *STUFF THE BUS*



Help send kids from low-income families back to school ready to learn.  
United Way's Stuff the Bus school supply collection begins June 21.

For a list of needed supplies and collection sites, visit [vcunitedway.org/education/stuff-the-bus/](http://vcunitedway.org/education/stuff-the-bus/).

## DAY OF CARING IS LOOKING FOR PROJECTS



Day of Caring planning is underway and it will take place on **Saturday, September 16 from 9:00 am to noon**. Non-profit organizations and public agencies, do you have a volunteer project in mind and need help on how to structure it? Need an application? Contact Teresa Casas at [Teresa.Casas@vcunitedway.org](mailto:Teresa.Casas@vcunitedway.org) or 805-485-6288 x233.

Project applications can also be found on [www.VolunteerVenturaCounty.org](http://www.VolunteerVenturaCounty.org).

**Applications can be submitted now and through Friday, June 16 at noon** via email or fax (805-485-4845).

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

**Administrative**

- Bulk mailing, inventory supplies, shred old files

**Painting**

- Walls, trim, doors, murals, furniture

**Client Based**

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

**Miscellaneous**

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

## SHERWOOD CARES SUPPORTS HEALTHY SMILES



At United Way's May 22 board meeting, the Sherwood Cares Foundation presented a \$10,000 check to United Way of Ventura County to support the Building Healthy Smiles Initiative. Through this initiative, we're working to eliminate dental disease in Ventura County through education, care coordination, and advocacy. For more information, visit [vcunitedway.org/building-healthy-smiles](http://vcunitedway.org/building-healthy-smiles).

## NEW ADDITION TO UNITED WAY

Jasmine Rara is the new Resource Development Manager at United Way of Ventura County. With over 12 years of non-profit development and marketing experience, Jasmine has supported a variety of organizations, ranging from the health care to equal rights to social services and education. Previously, she worked at United Way of Santa Barbara, where she was responsible for social media marketing and fundraising for workplace campaigns. Jasmine's passion to help the community at large is what drives her to be successful. She holds a Bachelor's degree in psychology that she utilizes everyday, professionally and personally.



## STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS

United Way of Ventura County wants to thank our Strawberry Festival volunteers who helped work the wine booth the weekend of May 20- 21. We had 33 enthusiastic and hardworking volunteers who attended Responsible Beverage Service training prior to the festival and put in over 240 hours of volunteering at the festival to support United Way.





## AMAZON SMILE

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

Step 1: Visit: [smile.amazon.com](https://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](https://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