

President's Message

Dear Friends,

[August 26 is a special day this month.](#) That evening, hundreds of champions for the underserved will gather to recognize the amazing contributions of some of our most thoughtful community leaders. August 26 is also Women's Equality Day, which celebrates the anniversary of the adoption of the 19th Amendment. The amendment granted women the right to vote for the first time and was a result of the women's suffrage movement in the country. To commemorate the day, all of our evening's individual honorees will be women. We will be saluting them for their extraordinary efforts to champion the underserved in our community. [Come hear their stories and share the spirit.](#)

We have a lot to celebrate! Here is just a glimpse of what excites me as we enter our new fiscal year:

* 2-1-1 Ventura County: In February, we launched a mobile text version of 2-1-1. Recently, United Way received a grant from Gold Coast Health Plan to acquire and implement Benefit Kitchen, a screening tool to be utilized by 2-1-1 call center specialists to determine eligibility and connect callers to the Cal Fresh program.

* AmeriCorps Volunteer Infrastructure Program: Now in our second year, our latest beneficiaries are Boys & Girls Clubs of Ventura and Moorpark, Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation, Habitat for Humanity, and Lutheran Social Services. As part of the program, they receive full-time volunteers to enhance their volunteer programs and capacity.

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. If you would like to become involved in our advocacy work, please email us at: info@vcunitedway.org.

Volunteer.

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

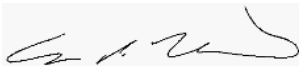
CHANGE
STARTS HERE.
CAN WE COUNT YOU IN?

* Building Healthy Smiles (children's dental): Our school-based program includes five elementary schools in the Ocean View School District. This past May, over 300 children at Mar Vista Elementary received care in one day! A new grant from Sherwood Cares will help with our East County expansion as we scale the model countywide.

* Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA): We are very proud of our public policy work and EITC expansion. Our local volunteers generated \$1.3 million in Earned Income Tax Credits back to underserved taxpayers and \$2.5 million in total returns.

Those are the numbers, and it's impact at its finest. Thanks for helping us accomplish great things in our community!

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

SAVE THE DATE - 2017 SPIRIT AWARDS GALA

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.

Buy Tickets

United Way of Ventura County

PRESENTS



Honoring the Legacy of the United Way Founders

Milton M. Teague Award
for Outstanding Community Volunteerism

JILL HANEY

Douglas Shively Award
for Outstanding Community Impact

ROSANNA PADILLA

Lifetime Achievement Award
Celebrating the Legacy of

CLAUDIA HARRISON

Roy Pinkerton Award
for Top Corporate Citizenship

PROCTER & GAMBLE

Women United Award
for Turning Compassion into Action

LEANNE NEILSON

Featuring Performance by Singer/Songwriter:

ANTHONY FEDOROV

"AMERICAN IDOL" FINALIST

and Singer/ Songwriter:

Colin Deane

**FOUR SEASONS HOTEL
WESTLAKE VILLAGE**

Saturday, August 26, 2017

*Private VIP Event Sponsor Reception 4:30 p.m.

Registration and Networking 6:00 p.m.

Dinner & Awards 6:30 p.m - 8:30 p.m.

*by Invitation Only



\$200.00 per person

To purchase tickets by credit card online go to:

<http://www.vcunitedway.org>

UNITED WAY RECRUITING FOR AMERICORPS FELLOWS



United Way of Ventura County is the hub for an AmeriCorps Volunteer Infrastructure project. We are currently recruiting for members who would begin their service in September 2017. Volunteer Infrastructure Project (VIP) Fellows build and strengthen sustainable volunteer programs in existing service organizations. VIP Fellows serve by building lasting systems of volunteer engagement and management. Each VIP Fellow dedicates their service to a single Partner Site, working "behind the scenes" of service to enable volunteers to take part in meaningful service positions that meet community needs. VIP Fellows are part of a statewide network of 120 Fellows placed in small teams of five or more in their community. Serving as an AmeriCorps hub is a perfect fit with United Way's volunteer engagement work.

When asked to reflect on her experience, Teresa Casas, who is wrapping up her service as an AmeriCorps fellow with United Way, shared, "My AmeriCorps assignment has allowed me to participate in leadership roles, professional trainings, community building, program planning, volunteer recruitment, and management."

AmeriCorps members provide 1,700 hours of service over eleven months. They receive a cash stipend of \$15,000 and an education award of just under \$5,700 for their service. Individuals interested in applying for an AmeriCorps member position or organizations wanting to learn about the opportunity to participate in the VIP should contact Susan Englund at 485-6288 x226 or susan.englund@vcunitedway.org.

STUFF THE BUS 2017 RESULTS



Over **900** backpacks were stuffed and distributed to **28** agencies serving communities in need throughout Ventura County. More than **10,000** school supply items were sorted and stuffed into backpacks by **60** volunteers giving **150** hours of service.

Of course none of this would have been possible without the support of the **38** collection sites hosted by libraries, financial institutions, offices,

corporations, and community-based organizations.

Thank you to our sponsors, **CBC Federal Credit Union** and **Rotary Club of Simi Sunset**.

Another thank you to your transportation sponsors, **UPS** and **Roadrunner Shuttle**.



And a final thank you to everyone in the community for making a difference in the lives of Ventura County children by sending them back to school with the supplies they need in order to be ready to learn!

DAY OF CARING IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS



Saturday, September 16
9:00 am- Noon

To see a list of Day of Caring projects you can volunteer for, [click here](#) or visit VolunteerVenturaCounty.org.

United Way of Ventura County has partnered with 27 agencies throughout Ventura County to provide volunteer opportunities for Day of Caring. On September 16 hundreds of volunteers will work together creating positive change in our community and demonstrate the difference volunteering can make.

For more information contact Susan Englund at susan.englund@vcunitedway.org.



JOIN WOMEN UNITED TODAY

JOIN NOW.

IGNITE CHANGE.

GET INVOLVED.

WOMEN UNITED®

JOIN WOMEN UNITED!

WOMEN UNITED UPDATES

Women United is excited to have launched the CASH (Create A Stable Home) Program at a Many Mansions site in Thousand Oaks. Women participating in the program are taking

financial workshops and receiving individual coaching in financial matters.

Women United has also formed three Work Teams: Financial Empowerment; Education and Career Pathways; and Membership and Events.

Women United members will be volunteering together at the United Way Day of Caring.

We invite anyone with an interest in supporting mothers in poverty in Ventura County to contact Vicki Raven (VickiRaven@vcunitedway.org) to find out how to get involved.

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

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 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



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Questions? Email: info@vcunitedway.org
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