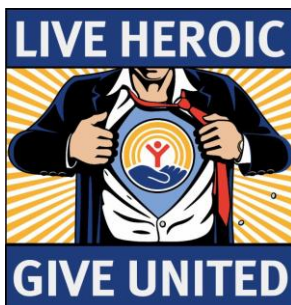


President's Message

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that in less than 100 days, we'll welcome in the New Year. From the heartache of global natural disasters to the recent tragedy in Las Vegas, 2017 has reminded us of what it means to be thankful for the basics of life and to live heroic when duty calls.

As of October 9, the United Way Network has raised almost \$59.44 million for disaster-related needs for mid- and long-term recovery efforts related to Hurricane Harvey, Hurricanes Irma/Maria, and the earthquake in Mexico.



Locally, we are a lean and mighty United Way. Operating on a budget of \$2.3 m and reducing expenses by 12% since 2015, we strive to be the best stewards of your contribution by achieving results that meaningfully improve people's lives.

Imagine what local community involvement means for:

- a six year old having his very first dental exam
- a high school student becoming the first to graduate in his family
- a family filing their income taxes for the first time and reaping thousands of dollars in refunds
- families becoming more involved in the education of their children
- over a thousand school children receiving free school supplies

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.

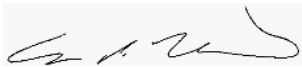
Volunteer.

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

- hundreds of volunteers assembled for a Day of Caring to strengthen the capacity of nonprofits
- help for single moms to improve their station in life with better health, income, and education for them and their children

Together, united, lives are changed as a result of your involvement. Live heroic, live united, and join us today.

In service,



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

SPOTLIGHT: 2-1-1 TEXTING CAMPAIGN

2-1-1 Mobile Cause Campaign

Text the keyword
"UWVC" to 41444
to make a \$10 donation
to help our kids, families, and seniors
receive FREE access to human service needs.



BUILDING HEALTHY SMILES

The Building Healthy Smiles Collaborative hosted the California State Dental Director, Dr. Jayanth Kumar, at a meeting on September 22. Over 50 individuals from county agencies, community clinics, community-based organizations, school districts, and local elected officials' offices attended the event. Dr. Kumar discussed the state oral health plan funded by Prop 56 Tobacco Tax funds. The priorities of the state oral health plan include: develop infrastructure and capacity; support proven prevention and early detection programs; strengthen knowledge and skills to engage in healthy behavior; link people to sources of care; improve health systems; provide training and technical assistance to enhance capacity to care for vulnerable population groups; develop partnerships, coalitions and collaboration; and support ongoing surveillance, planning and evaluation. Many of the strategies discussed by Dr. Kumar are reflected in the work of our Building Healthy Smiles Initiative.

Ventura County is expected to receive some of the Prop 56 funding and is currently in the planning phase of developing a program. As a Building Healthy Smiles partner, the County will be seeking input about their plan over the next several months from Collaborative members.

It's Open Enrollment Time!

Open enrollment for Covered CA is set for November 1, 2017 - January 31, 2018. During open enrollment, anyone needing health insurance coverage will be able to apply. Financial assistance is available to those who qualify based on income and household size.

Current Covered CA members are able to renew their coverage and/or make changes to their health plan beginning October 11, 2017. Current Covered CA Blue Cross members have the option to select either Blue Shield or Kaiser as their new health plan beginning January 1, 2018. Blue Cross will end coverage in Ventura County on December 31, 2017.

For help enrolling into Covered CA or for any questions regarding health coverage options, please contact our Covered CA certified enrollment counselor, Catherine Pedrosa at (805) 485-6288 x270 or via e-mail at Catherine.pedrosa@vcunitedway.org.



THANK YOU TO OUR DAY OF CARING SPONSORS



Thank you to the over 600 volunteers who collected and sorted food, painted, weeded, planted, and cleaned at 26 project sites across Ventura County on Saturday, September 16. In addition to the many individuals and families who volunteered, numerous organizations also participated, including CBCFCU, Wells Fargo, P&G, Monsanto, Eurofins, CLU, CSUCI, Women United, Soroptimist International of Oxnard, and the LDS Church. A special thank you to our sponsors CBCFCU, Wells Fargo, P&G, and CLU. In all, volunteers provided over 1,800 hours of labor, valued at approximately \$40,000 of donated service.





WOMEN UNITED EVENT

You are invited to join
UNITED WAY OF VENTURA COUNTY
WOMEN UNITED

WE ARE WOMEN UNITED.
WE IGNITE CHANGE.



We want YOU!

Are you looking to improve Ventura County's
single mothers in poverty rate?

WOMEN UNITED is your group!
Become a Member and Join Now!

ADVOCATE. IGNITE CHANGE. GET INVOLVED.

ADMISSION FREE

United Way of Ventura County & Wells Fargo invite you to join our Women United Chair, Leanne Neilson, Ph.D., Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs of California Lutheran University and hear her speak on the issue of single mothers with children that are in poverty in our Ventura County. Come learn what you can do and become a member of **WOMEN UNITED!**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2017

6:00 PM TO 7:30 PM

WELLS FARGO BANK

WESTLAKE PLAZA

970 S. Westlake Blvd., Westlake Village, CA 91361

RSVP by FRIDAY 10/13/17

Vicki.Raven@vcunitedway.org | 805.485.6288 ext. 229

Complimentary Hors d'oeuvres & Wine

Hors d'oeuvres donated by Wells Fargo, wine donated by Opolo Wines and raffle prizes donated by various Ventura County restaurants.



United Way of
Ventura County

JOIN OUR VOLUNTEER TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA) TEAM

You will be helping families and individuals with earnings below \$54,000 file their returns and claim the tax credits they're entitled to for the 2017 tax year.

Volunteers are asked to give four hour per week during the tax season, January 31 to April 30. Training will be offered (approximately 16 hours) in December on tax law and how to electronically prepare and file the state and federal return using TaxSlayer software. Online sessions are also available.

VITA sites are located across Ventura County and offer weekday, evening, and Saturday hours for volunteering. Click on the links below to view the VITA volunteer opportunities on VolunteerVenturaCounty.org:

Tax preparer: http://www.volunteerventuracounty.org/need/detail/?need_id=216992

Intake volunteer: http://www.volunteerventuracounty.org/need/detail/?need_id=216989

Or contact susan.englund@vcunitedway.org



GIVE TO UNITED WAY WITH AMAZON SMILE

Did you know you can support United Way of Ventura County every time you shop on Amazon.com at no cost to you?

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection, and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to United Way of Ventura County.



Whether you are shopping for your spooktacular Halloween costume or your next new smartphone, please pick Orange County United Way as your charity of choice. It's easy and you just have to do it once: Click the button below and log in to your account. That's it! Now, each time you shop at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), type smile.amazon.com on your browser.

Step 1: Go to 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!

It's your turn. Put the smile on AmazonSmile and share your Halloween costume purchased via AmazonSmile with us by using the hashtag #ShopToGiveVC on your social media networks.

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ALL THE FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS**

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THANK YOU TO OUR TOP SUPPORTERS

UNITED WAY CORPORATE PARTNERS STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY



Our corporate partners are committed to creating a stronger community by running United Way workplace campaigns, advocating for change, and volunteering their time and talent. By supporting United Way of Ventura County, who has served the community for over 70 years, companies send a powerful message to employees and customers that they care about their communities and want to help make a difference.

2016-2017 TOP UNITED WAY OF VENTURA COUNTY WORKPLACE CAMPAIGN PARTNERS



LEARN HOW YOUR COMPANY CAN LIVE UNITED BY CONDUCTING A WORKPLACE CAMPAIGN.
CONTACT JASMINE RARA AT JASMINE.RARA@VCUNITEDWAY.ORG OR 805.485.6288 EXT. 245

