

United Way of Ventura County

LIVE UNITED



GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

E-NEWS FROM YOUR UNITED WAY
February 2018

President's Message

Dear Friends,

Thanks to the generosity of over 13,000 donors to the United Way Thomas Fire and Flood Fund, we are helping our community members who have been directly affected by the disaster.

Starting this month, disaster victims are able to apply for the next phase of relief funding. Between now and April 30, we will distribute as much as \$1.5 million for individual hardship assistance. Prior to the New Year, United Way provided immediate assistance in the form of \$500 prepaid credit cards to approximately 1,000 Ventura County residents whose homes were destroyed by the Thomas Fire.

From now through March 15, application forms for victims will be available at vcunitedway.org and 211ventura.org. Applicants can also call 2-1-1 or text "ThomasFire" to 898-211 to find out more. Local agencies will assess the need and eligibility of each applicant. Eligibility will be based on family size and income limit of 120% or less of Area Median Income. Funds will support Ventura County residents' expenses related to housing, livelihood/income, and habitability of their homes.

Since the fund expanded to include flood relief and joint fundraising efforts with our partners at United Way of Santa Barbara, an additional \$500,000 has been donated for fire and flood assistance along the Central Coast.

The outpouring of support has been incredible, and we're so proud to be able to distribute these

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?

funds to help residents who have lost so much. We have a long way to go to rebuild our community, but nobody is in it alone. Whether you lost a home, income, or have been impacted in another way, I encourage you to give 2-1-1 a call and learn more about the resources that are being extended to you and your neighbors. Since 1945, your local United Way has been there for Ventura County. Together, united, we will rebuild and recover stronger than ever.



**United Way of
Ventura County**

To learn more, visit us at:
www.vcunitedway.org

In service,

Eric Harrison
President & CEO
United Way of Ventura
County



WOMEN UNITED EVENT

**LEADING
THE CHARGE
INSPIRING
THE CHANGE™**

UNITED WAY OF VENTURA COUNTY
WOMEN UNITED

**Go to vcunitedway.org
to purchase your tickets now.**



Women United 2nd Annual Luncheon

THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2018 | 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

CALIFORNIA LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY | GILBERT SPORTS & FITNESS CENTER

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

TABLE OF U.S. \$600 OR \$75 PER PERSON
Tables and Sponsorship Opportunities available now!

****EARLY BIRD TICKET PRICE \$75 - AFTER APRIL 30, 2018
PRICE INCREASES TO \$100.00**



Guest Speaker

DR. BRENDA COMBS
INSPIRATIONAL
EDUCATOR & SURVIVOR

A little over a decade ago, speaker Dr. Brenda Combs was a homeless crack addict and criminal who had been shot, beaten and raped. Today, having completely turned her life around, the media has landed her journey as being "from homeless to hero." A single mother who successfully obtained a doctorate in organizational leadership, Dr. Combs motivates others with her inspirational story of perseverance.

Once Brenda Combs set her sights on becoming a teacher, there was no stopping her. As a single mother of a young son who suffered a stroke at birth, she juggled three jobs while earning a bachelor's degree in human services. She then went on to get her master's degree and finished with a doctorate in organizational leadership with an emphasis on education. She travels around the world educating single mothers along with others on the importance of education and the power of within.

"If I can do it, anybody can do it," she says. "I think every person has inside of them what it takes to succeed."

Dr. Brenda Combs has received tremendous national coverage, including an article in Readers' Digest and interviews on The Today Show and CNN News.



"Dig Deep in your purse today" for a
Women United cause!

Opportunity to win one or more
luxury designer purse(s) worth
approximately \$150 - \$1500.

The more tickets you buy - the
more chances of winning!

Several drawings throughout the event.

\$5.00/Ticket or 5 for \$20

Tickets available at event

100% of all proceeds benefit United Way United programs.



For representation only
not actual opportunity items.

**For questions and more info contact Vicki Raven at:
(805) 485-6288 ext. 229 or Vicki.Raven@vcunitedway.org**

**Go to vcunitedway.org
to purchase your tickets now.**



Buy Tickets

RED FEATHER SOCIETY

Last month at Stonehaus in Westlake Village, United Way of Ventura County celebrated and thanked 100 members of the Red Feather Society, United Way's leadership donor society, and major supporters of the Thomas Fire and Flood Fund.

Many community leaders attended the event, including Assistant CEO Matt Carroll, Assistant Sheriff Dowd, and supervisors Kelly Long, Steve Bennett, and Linda Parks. During the event, Cinny Kennard from the Annenberg Foundation spoke about how the Annenberg Foundation decided to make the lead gift to the Thomas Fire & Flood Fund.

The evening was full of deep appreciation, friendship, community spirit, and two surprises. Both AT&T and Bank of America surprised United Way staff by making two incredibly generous donations during the event. AT&T donated \$100,000 and Bank of America donated \$150,000.

A special thanks to Stonehouse for hosting the event and for graciously donating the wine and food.





VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR COUNT OF HOMELESS PERSONS

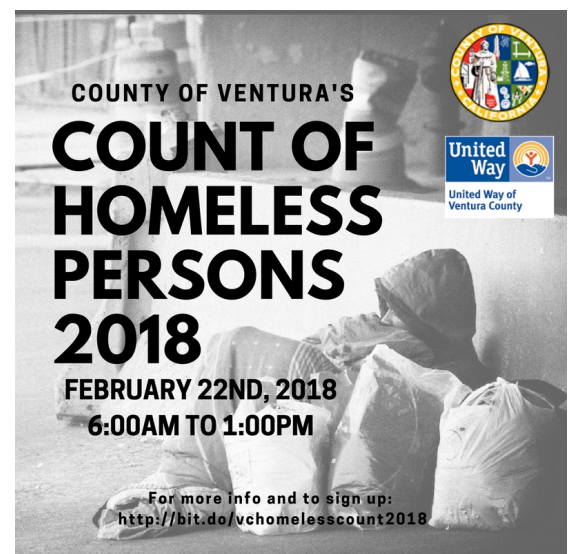
Join a team in your community where you live or work to assist in this year's Count of Homeless Persons!

The County of Ventura needs your help to complete the Count of Homeless Persons on February 22 from 6:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Sites throughout Ventura County include: Ventura, Camarillo, Ojai, Santa Paula, Thousand Oaks, Fillmore, Oxnard, Simi Valley, Port Hueneme, Moorpark, and unincorporated areas.

Click on the following link to learn more about the Count of Homeless Persons and to register:

http://www.volunteerventuracounty.org/aem/general/event/?doc_id=4649

We still have many volunteer spots open for Oxnard, Simi Valley, and Ventura. Please help out if you can!



BUILDING HEALTHY SMILES

On January 28 and 29, Building Healthy Smiles held an oral health assessment event

at Tierra Vista Elementary School in Oxnard. Working in partnership with the Ocean View School District and Clinicas del Camino Real, we provided oral health assessments and fluoride varnish to 147 kindergarten through 2nd grade students. Children who saw the dentist received an oral health kit with a toothbrush, toothpaste, and floss. Clinicas staff will follow up with the parents of children whose teeth were found to have some decay to encourage them to get treatment. All 324 kindergarten through 2nd grade students at the school also participated in the oral health presentation conducted by Clinicas Health Education staff.

Building Healthy Smiles' next oral health assessment event is on Friday, March 2, from 9 AM to 1 PM at the Simi Valley First 5 Family Resource Center. For more information about upcoming 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.



VOLUNTEER TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA)



Free Income tax preparation for individuals/families with earnings under \$54,000.

Open January 31-April 30, 2018 at 9 sites across Ventura County.

Self-employed workers and families making up to \$22,300 now eligible for the CalEITC.

THANK YOU TO OUR TOP SUPPORTERS

UNITED WAY CORPORATE PARTNERS STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY



United Way of
Ventura County

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



MONSANTO



NORTHROP GRUMMAN



LEARN HOW YOUR COMPANY CAN LIVE UNITED BY CONDUCTING A WORKPLACE CAMPAIGN.
CONTACT JASMINE RARA AT [JASMINE.RARA@VCUNITEDWAY.ORG](mailto:jasmine.rara@vcunitedway.org) OR 805.485.6288 EXT. 245

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, 702 County Square Drive, Suite 100, Ventura, CA 93003
Ph: (805) 485-6288 email: info@vcunitedway.org [Unsubscribe](#)

Questions? Email: info@vcunitedway.org
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