

UNITED WAY MATTERS...

News from Roane County United Way

Spring 2006

Our Mission

To improve the lives of Roane County residents by mobilizing the caring power of its communities

Our Vision

We will build a stronger Roane County by mobilizing our communities to improve people's lives

Contact Us

Roane County United Way
2735 Roane State Highway
PO Box 317
Harriman, TN 37748
Phone: 865-882-7711
Fax: 865-882-9899
E-mail: rcuway@comcast.net

Staff – Diana Knobloch
Executive Director

Paulette Lawson
Social Services Coordinator /
Administrative Assistant

Board of Directors

Kathy Cole, Chairman
Tom Pickel, 1st Vice Chair
Carol Grametbauer, Secretary
Greg Pugh, Treasurer
Janice Bardill
Becky Brunton
Mike Emery
Bill Mixon
Paul Goldberg
Dirk Van Hoesen
Becky Layne
Candace Lett
Missy Gallaher
Mary Ann Owings
Greg Palko

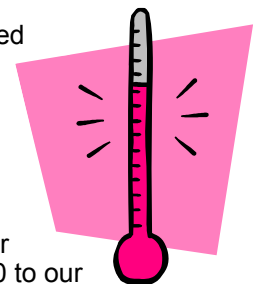
From the Director...*Diana Knobloch*

Greetings from the Roane County United Way. It has been a while since our last newsletter was published (Summer 2005). We apologize for the lapse in communication, however, we have been quite busy tending to multiple activities as you will be able to tell from this communication. I want to thank all who participated in our campaign and fund distribution process this past fall. A lot of work by a lot of individuals is enabling us to provide health and human services to our neighbors in Roane County. I invite you to read on to learn about the activities of the Roane County United Way. As I prepare to celebrate my tenth anniversary with RCUW, I am amazed at how far we have come and am encouraged by what we are accomplishing. While we travel along this road called Community Impact, I know that together we will continue to accomplish great things that will only continue to strengthen our community.



Campaign Closes – Roane County raises 94.7% of Goal

As this newsletter goes to press, our campaign has raised approximately \$350,383—94.7 percent of our goal of \$370,000. Our Campaign Committee worked diligently to achieve this year's goal. The campaign extended into January with a road block held the last weekend. We want to thank the West Roane County VFD, the Harriman Police and Fire Departments, the Roane County Rescue Squad and member of the UW Board for manning the county-wide roadblock which added \$3000 to our campaign revenue.



Pump Day brings in needed funds...

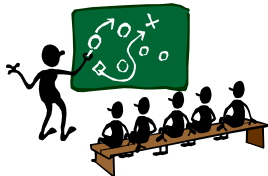
Our 2005 Pump Day, held November 10, raised \$2,480 for the campaign. Sponsored by Rocky Top Markets, Pump Day featured Roane Countians pumping gas at Rocky Top locations in Kingston, Harriman, Rockwood and at I-40/Hwy. 27.

Rocky Top Markets donated five cents to Roane County United Way for every gallon pumped. Pump Day Coordinator Jo Ann Knies was assisted by Shirley Freeman, Gail Lyke, Karin Cisson, Tony and Chris Mason, and a cadre of volunteer pumpers. Our thanks to Rocky Top Markets for participating in this annual project, and to our volunteers for making it happen!



Utilities, agencies discuss impact of rising costs...

A Utility/Agency Roundtable convened by Roane County United Way Executive Director Diana Knobloch in October brought together representatives of area utilities, municipalities, and United Way agencies and churches that provide utility assistance programs to discuss the potential impacts that increased utility costs will have on our community. The group looked at our existing resources and shortfalls, and discussed potential ways of improving our current assistance delivery systems. The well-attended roundtable provided a good opportunity for agencies and utilities to interact. Potential ideas for consideration included sharing criteria between agencies, educating the customers on proper weatherization techniques, the availability for the utilities to do energy audits and reinstating a shared database between agencies.



Transitional Task Force ready to assemble focus-area teams...

The Transitional Task Force that has been set up to assist Roane County United Way with issues related to the transition from traditional fundraising to a community-impact focus met in November to begin discussing the makeup of the "Phase Two" teams for its four focus areas-- Families Living on the Edge, Community Care, Health Issues, and Transportation Issues.

Phase One of the Task Force effort, conducted during the summer of 2005, involved a series of meetings to formulate an approach and to identify critical areas that need to be addressed in our community. During Phase Two, the four focus-area teams will work on more definite plans for what can be accomplished in each area.

Task Force Chair, Tom Pickel, said the Task Force will recruit agency representatives and business and government leaders to sit on the four teams, in an effort to make their work a community-wide project. While work on transition had to be suspended due to campaign and fund distribution activities, work will resume later this spring and into summer. Anyone with an interest in serving on one of the four focus teams is welcome to participate! Call the United Way offices at 882-7711 or send us an email (rcuway@comcast.net) if you would like to volunteer.



3rd Annual Leadership Givers' Dinner held at Whitestone...

The annual Leadership Givers' dinner recognizes individuals who contributed \$500 or more to the campaign, as well as companies that made a corporate gift of \$1,000 or more or whose employee campaigns raised \$3,000 or more. This year's dinner was sponsored by Sexton Automotive Group, the Whitestone Country Inn, Laura's Liquor and Wine Store, Akins Crisp Public Strategies, Fowler's Furniture, Duratek, Inc. and the Kingston Rotary Club. Nearly 100 people attended the event and were treated to a buffet dinner and

entertaining and uplifting comments by Bo Shafer. As a token of appreciation an original art print, "Roane County Summer," (a sequel to last year's print "Roane County Spring") contributed by watercolor artist Robin Burkart of Knoxville was presented to attendees as a token of appreciation for their support.

Sally & Dana Peterka and



Joy Goldberg

Allocations Panels commit over \$334,000 to community programs and services

During the fall, community volunteers met with agencies to review budgets and program goals. Their recommendations were sent to the Budget and Allocation Committee, which reviewed the recommendations before presenting the proposed budget to the Roane County United Way board of directors for final approval. Funding decisions were difficult as the need is always greater than the resources. Priority was put on funding our volunteer fire departments and rescue squads and our senior nutrition program.



Volunteer Income Tax Program completes their second year...

When hard-working area families do not file for their Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) at tax time, that money is lost to them and to the local economy. In addition, money is lost when area families pay high fees to commercial tax preparation firms that offer refund anticipation loans (RALs) or rapid returns. Roane County United Way provided simple tax assistance by hosting the local Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. United Ways nationwide partner with the IRS to locate or provide sites for this important service, and are particularly interested in focusing on households that meet the criteria to receive the EITC and Child Care credits. Returns are filed electronically, personal information is secure and confidential. Filers can expect their refunds within two weeks if direct deposited or three weeks if sent to their homes.

Here is a summary of our 2006 results vs. 2005: Our client base increased by 31% over last year --

We want to thank our volunteers - Dana Peterka (site coordinator), Joan Higgins, Bobby Renfro, Grant Palmer and Paulette Lawson for their dedication and efforts to this program.

	2006	2005
Electronic Returns Filed	103	83
Paper Returns Filed	14	6
Total Returns Filed	117	89
Number of Clients Receiving Refunds	97	78
Total Net Amount of Refunds	\$110,229	\$105,197
Average Refund Amount for All Clients	\$942	\$1,182
Number of Clients Receiving EIC	31	23
Total EIC Amount	\$41,338	\$34,825
Average EIC Amount All	\$1,333	\$1,514
Average EIC Amount Head of Household	\$1,935	\$2,640
Average EIC Amount Married Filing Jointly	\$1,732	\$1,737
Average EIC Amount Single	\$274	\$231
Number of Clients with:		
Adjusted Gross Income Below \$10,000	43	33
Adjusted Gross Income Below \$15,000	62	46

PROJECT FREEDOM™

Helping the willing achieve financial freedom

individual situations of the clients. This program aligns with our Families Living on the Edge focus area. The program components are as follows:

Project Freedom, a five pronged approach to helping the willing achieve financial freedom, is well under way. The various components are designed to be selected and tailored to the

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

Financial Peace University is a 13-week program produced by Dave Ramsey. We have partnered with the Kingston Church of Christ to provide this course to the community. The first class has 30 participants that meet every Monday night at the Roane County Rescue Squad/United Way meeting room. A second class is being planned for the fall. If you are interested in signing up or receiving information, you may contact the Kingston Church of Christ at 376-9230.

Self-Improvement Books Program is offered through a partnership with the Rockwood Public Library. The following books are available to all county residents: *The Purpose Driven Life* (Warren), *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People* (Covey), *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* (Covey), *Financial Peace Revisited* (Ramsey), *Financial Peace, Jr.* (Ramsey), *Rich Dad Poor Dad* (Kiyosaki w/Lechter), *Boundaries* (Cloud and Townsend), *The Millionaire Next Door* (Stanley and Danko), *Job Hunting for the So-Called Handicapped* (Bolles and Brown), and *48 Days to the Work you Love* (Miller).

Easy and Nutritious Meals Program is being offered through a partnership with the UT Extension offices in Roane County. This four session program teaches participants how to plan menus and demonstrate the preparation of easy and fast dishes. Family members 12 years and older are encouraged to participate in the program. The current class has been meeting for two weeks and has 14 in attendance. There is a full waiting list for a second class. If you are interested you can contact Melanie Duff at 376-5558.

Effective Grocery Shopping is a five session program showing participants how to value shop. It will focus on unit pricing, selection of alternate brands and the effective use of coupons. Family members 14 years and older are encouraged to participate. This is also being offered through a partnership with the UT Extension office. This class is scheduled to begin in June. Call 376-5558 to participate.

Michael Dunn Center hosts Annual Meeting and Campaign Recognition...

The RCUW Annual meeting was held on March 22 at the Michael Dunn Center in Kingston. The luncheon was attended by fifty guests representing donors, agencies and volunteers. We elected board members, recognized volunteers, and company campaign efforts. We welcome the following individuals to our board of directors - Becky Brunton (Roane State Community College), Greg Palko (Oak Ridge National Lab), and Mary Ann Owings (Rockwood Housing Authority). We bid farewell to outgoing board member, Edgar "Buddy" Bowers. Buddy has served on the RCUW board for the past six years and we thank him for his service to our community through United Way. We Thank MDC for their continued hospitality. A full report on the yearly activities of the RCUW can be obtained through our annual report.

Tom & Jane Pickel, Buddy &



Kay Bowers, and Janice Bardill



Campaign Team members Bob Capell, Kathy Cole, Becky Layne, Johnny Griffin, Jo Ann & Frank Knies



United Way hosts Chamber After Hours...

The Roane County United Way had their first opportunity to officially show off their new office space when they hosted a Chamber After Hours in October. United Way agencies were on hand with displays to answer questions about programs offered in Roane County. The Roane County United Way moved into their new space in January 2005.

Tom Pickel and Cindy Dodson

discuss Florence Crittenton programs.

“We are excited about our new space,” says Director, Diana Knobloch, “it is opening our office to the community as the new meeting space is being utilized by many organizations in the community.” We are extremely grateful to the Roane County Rescue Squad for building this addition. The new meeting space is available to community organizations either free of charge or for a nominal donation. If you are interested in the space you can contact the United Way office to reserve space.

United Ways gather in Nashville to support the Governor’s Pre-K Initiative...

United Ways from across the state attended the United Way of Metropolitan Nashville’s Annual Meeting in February to support Governor Bredesen’s Pre K initiative. Involvement with the Governor and his pre-K initiative is aligned to the strategic direction of the United Way system as we transform from purely a fund raising organization to one that also seeks to have “community impact” and to get at the “root causes” of problems. Member United Ways of the State Association have been clear that early childhood development/early learning are areas to which all of us are committed. (Success By 6, Read to Succeed, Born Learning, etc.). This challenge appeals to our core competency of bringing key players to the table to find solutions to local community issues.



Mark Desmond (Nashville), Ben Landers (Knoxville), Eva Dillard (Chattanooga), Mike McClanahan (Sumner Co.), Governor Bredesen, Ann Buchanan (Williamson Co.), Diana Knobloch (Roane Co.), Roy Marshall (Sevier Co.), and Christine Ralph (Rhea Co.)

Upcoming Events –

Pathways Shelter – Open House 215 S. Church Ave. Rockwood	April 27	Noon – 7 p.m.
Roane Interagency Meeting United Way office	May 9	11 am – Noon
United Way Board Meeting UW Offices	May 22	5 pm - 6:30 pm

**Note date change*