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United Way of
Marion County

LIVE UNITED



VOLUNTEER.

GIVE.

ADVOCATE.



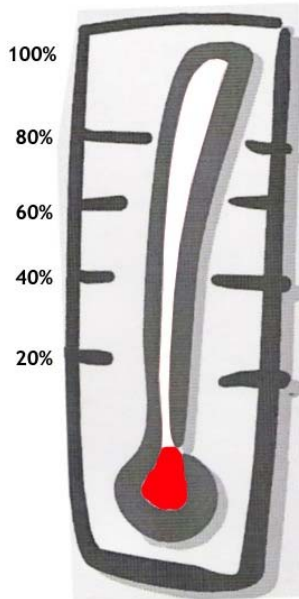
Campaign Goal is Set

Volunteers for the United Way of Marion County have set a goal to raise \$1,126,000 this fall. The campaign officially kicked off on September 17th with the theme "LIVE UNITED" and was hosted at the United Federal Credit Union at the Marion Area Chamber of Commerce's Business After Hours event.

Three organizations, ConAgra Foods, Smith Clinic, and TRECA have stepped up to serve as Pacesetters for Marion County's 2009 United Way campaign. Pacesetters are businesses or organizations that begin their internal campaigns early, demonstrating strategies that can be used and the potential for success, thereby "setting the pace" for others.

As the largest private investor in health and human services programs in Marion County, United Way of Marion County's consolidated annual campaign, planned and carried out primarily through volunteers, raises funds that are then invested back into the county through more than 37 area programs that focus on education, income and health. These are the building blocks for a good life - a quality education that leads to a stable job, enough income to support a family through retirement, and good health. [Learn more here.](#)

Are You Ready?



A Note from Pam



Wow - It's September already. School has started and the United Way campaign has too. At least talking to you this month about how to LIVE UNITED is easy. Of the three options: give, advocate, volunteer, one is especially important this time of year and that's giving.

I've had moments this summer when I've questioned how I feel about asking people for support in a bad economy, but I always come back to the same answer. As bad as things are, most of you reading this

September is National Preparedness Month (NPM), and this year's focus is on changing perceptions about emergency preparedness and helping Americans understand what it truly means to be [Ready](#). Being truly prepared goes beyond fire alarms, smoke detectors, dead-bolt locks and extra food in the pantry. It is about communicating the importance of being prepared to your family, your co-workers and your community.

That's why the United Way, Red Cross, and other local organizations will be at the "Safety Saturday" event at the Marion Lowe's Home Improvement store on Saturday, September 26th. Come join us and find out how you can be ready.

Whether it is a natural disaster or a potential terrorist attack, there are four key things you can do now to be ready for an emergency:

1. Get an emergency supply kit;
2. Make a family emergency plan;
3. Be informed about the different types of emergencies that could occur and their appropriate responses; and
4. Get involved in community efforts.

Individuals can visit www.redcross.org or call the local American Red Cross Chapter at 740-725-9141 for more information about emergency preparedness and training.

Red Cross Safety Game Keeps Youngsters Engaged

The mission of the American Red Cross is to help people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies. The local Red Cross receives funding for a portion of its disaster-related programs through United Way of Marion County.

Besides providing direct assistance to local disaster victims affected by fires, floods and other events, the Chapter seeks to help people avoid or at least mitigate losses through Community Disaster Education (CDE). CDE takes many forms, including: disaster orientation and training classes; presentations to schools, businesses and community groups; topics covered in brochures, fliers and on www.redcross.org; as well information presented through area broadcast, print and online media partners.

Helping young children retain information - even the basics about disaster preparedness - often goes better if there's an element of fun involved. The staff and volunteers of the Marion County Red Cross use a Chapter-developed Safety Game to catch and hold children's interest.

The Red Cross rolls out a room-sized game board of painted canvas at schools and family-oriented events.

have work, enough to eat and a secure place to call home. None of us may have it as good as it was three years ago, but we're making it. Not everyone is.

As I walked down the hall today, I heard someone sobbing in our FIRST Line office and caught the word, "hopeless." I immediately thought, "It's never hopeless. There's always hope if you know where to look and you're willing to try." FIRST Line and Family & Children First are working now to provide hope for that single mother and her two children because you and others responded last year.

I'm asking you to LIVE UNITED again this year and share some of what you have to create hope for other families like this one. Choose giving.

Pam

Upcoming Events

Want a LIVE UNITED T-Shirt of your own? We will be taking orders for both short and long sleeved versions of the LIVE UNITED T-shirts.

The cost is \$10 each; sizes range from Adult Small to XXL. To order or get more information, e-mail Kelly on or before September 28th.

Nominate Someone!
Do you know a kid who exemplifies superior sportsmanship, academic excellence and civic engagement?

Then nominate him/her for the Sports Illustrated 2009 SI

Children act as life-sized game pieces, advancing around the board by giving correct answers to age-appropriate questions. Topics pertain to fires, flooding and severe weather, as well as common household dangers, emergency preparedness and the importance of pitching in to help others in need, no matter what your age.

In July, Nucor Steel Marion, Inc., sponsored a safety fair for its employees and their families. Nucor invited the Chapter to take part and opened the fair to the general public. Several hundred people attended the four-hour event and 41 children played the Safety Game. Chapter staff and registered Red Cross volunteers were on hand to offer information, as well as encouragement.

Feedback indicated that at least some of the messaging made an impression beyond the target audience. As a grown-up running a neighboring booth observed later in the day, "I never gave much thought to emergency preparedness. But, based on what I've overheard, I'm going to go home and get started."

KIDS SportsKid of the Year (SKOTY).

[Read More.](#)

United Way of Marion
Named 2009 Community
Health Center Hero!

The Ohio Community Health
Center Hero Award
recognizes outstanding
leaders and advocates
working for local Community
Health Centers.

United Way of Marion County
was nominated by Center
Street Community Clinic.
Together, the United Way
and Center Street Clinic are
ensuring Marion's residents
have access to high quality
primary and preventative
health care services.



Visit the [United Way of Marion County](#)



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