

Beth Rattray

From: United Way of Howard County [brattray@unitedwayhoco.org]
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United Way of Howard County
GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

LIVE UNITED United Way
NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL UNITED WAY

MAY



Gwen Gaillard and Jerry Price celebrate after Gaillard is announced 2011 United Way Adult Volunteer of the Year. Gaillard volunteering ranges from activities in her church as well as Bridges Outreach board member, CAM, Open Arms, Kokomo Rescue Mission and Kokomo school system.

Gwen Gaillard Named 2011 Adult Volunteer of the Year by 2-1-1 United Way!

Dear Lori,

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This year's 2-1-1 United Way volunteer winners represented a busy community. People are helping in so many facets of our community. Time and talent come in all shapes and sizes. Can you make a difference in someone's life? These volunteer winners used their time and talent in very innovative ways.

Gwen Gaillard, Adult Volunteer of the year, assisted with youth education, the abused, the hungry and those in need of shelter. She is a sunday school teacher/vision member, Bridges Outreach board member, Kokomo school system volunteer, CAM volunteer and Kokomo Rescue Mission volunteer and a participant in mission trips for Panama, the Philippines and Africa.

Hod Peabody, posthumously awarded Senior Volunteer of the year, contributed over 23 years of service to the this community. Nominated by the American Red Cross of North Central Indiana, served as a member of the Disaster Action Team, transported blood between Kokomo and Fort Wayne and participated in countless fundraisers.

Alan Mast, Youth Volunteer of the Year, raised two cows and readied them for market to donate to the hungry in the community. From that, "Cattle Project 2010" emerged and Kokomo Urban Outreach provided thousands of pounds of beef to the community. This year five more steers are being raised for the project.



Sharon Herr and Haley Lawson, Group Volunteers of the Year, taught self respect and the importance of respecting others through their "thumbody special" program. Nominated by Mental Health Association, this team presented their message to 269 Howard County elementary school children.

Janay Martin and Teresa Devaul, New Initiative Winners of the Year accept their award from 2-1-1 United Way of Howard County.

Janay Martin and Teresa Devaul, New Initiative Winners of the Year, helped spread the importance of modesty in regard to fashion, the internet and sexual purity. Their "blush parties" have been embraced by hundreds of young girls and parents and get more popular every day.

Thank you to all the creative talent that lies within our Howard County community, both winners and nominees!

Representative and ask them to remove Section 139 from House Bill 1001.

This section directs the state to significantly reduce its investment in waiver services by July 1, 2013, jeopardizing the State's obligation to provide for the health and safety needs of our most vulnerable citizens. Removing resources from the system will undercut years of careful and thoughtful investment in these vital services - and it will cause irreparable harm to Hoosiers with disabilities who depend on them. Secondly, the bill directs the state to no longer waive parental income considerations for children applying for or receiving Medicaid waiver services. As a result, nearly **1,500 children currently receiving services would no longer be eligible for critical home and community supports.**

BE AN ADVOCATE

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You can LIVE UNITED by helping us spread the word. Imagine how many people we could reach if everyone forwards this to five people.

+ TELL YOUR FRIENDS

Volunteer.

Volunteers Shine!

United Way and coordinated tax sites wrap up their Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) programs this week by more than doubling their numbers from last year. VITA sites were established to assist families making less than \$50,000. Sites electronically file taxes and encourage families to file for Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC). Ivy Tech Community College joined United Way of Howard County and Indiana University - Kokomo this year as the third tax site.

VITA funding was made possible beginning in 2009 through an Indiana Association of United Ways grant. The local match was provided by the City of Kokomo and Center Township. This grant helped form the local Financial Stability Coalition which supports VITA and Bank On Kokomo. In 2011, community donors funded VITA through the Spark the Match fundraising campaign which was made possible by Indiana Association of United Ways.

Extending its hours twice, United Way and

"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless."

Volunteer today!

Save the Date:

Taste of Kokomo and Grillmaster's Challenge, the King of all Cook-Offs is August 20!

For more information about participating in these great events, please call Beth Rattray at 457-6691 for more information.



Backyard Grillmasters Challenge Taste of Kokomo

the Internal Revenue Service trained 29 volunteers, completed 231 tax returns and Howard County claimed \$252,681 in Federal refunds of which \$87,556 was EITC. The previous year (2009), 18 volunteers were trained, 90 tax returns were completed with \$120,000 of refunds. These sites saved Howard County low income residents over \$34,000 in tax preparer's fees, put money back into hard working families' pockets and allowed them to make purchases at local businesses stimulating the local economy.

United Way's 2-1-1 agency scheduled appointments for all three tax sites. United Way 2-1-1 is an information and referral service connecting those in need with resources. "It was a great fit for VITA and 2-1-1 to work together. It allowed callers to have their questions answered or schedule an appointment. With tax sites opened three days a week, the vitality of VITA is its volunteers," said Lori Tate, President of United Way.

Up and Coming Events

May 13 - 11:30am-1:00pm - Mayor's Committee on Mental Health and Wellness Public Forum - City Hall Council Chambers, 100 S. Union.

Presenters Jim and Carla Buchanan "In Our Own Voice" NAMI of Kokomo, free of charge, Pizza, drink and dessert provided.



May 14 - 8:30am- Mail Carriers Food Drive - United Way, United States Postal Service, AFayor's Committed together to fill the local food pantries.

Questions on how to volunteer? Call 457-4357. We need walkers, drivers, sorters and floaters or just put a nonperishable food item out by your mailbox the morning of May 14. It is easy to help!

May 14 - 6-9pm - Bona Vista's Greatest Spectacle in Tasting.

A fun evening of dining, tasting and bidding to benefit Bona Vista Programs. We will have 35 restaurants, 100 wines and micro brew samples for everyone to taste. Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$45 at the door. Tickets are available at Bona Vista and Soupley's locations.

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