



United Way  
of Knox County

## United Way of Knox County Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2019

Volume 3 Edition 4



### Executive Director Report

The 2019 year for the United Way of Knox County and its partners was quite a list of accomplishments and aspirations for the future. The year was kicked off with an award from the Chamber of Commerce naming UWKC as their **non-for-profit of the year**, a first-time designation for the community. We then set our sights on starting some new impact projects and introduced the community to **Bedtime in a Box** a sleep hygiene product that we paired with our Kindergarten Jumpstart program. We received tremendous help from several corporate and civic group support.

With our sites on listening to a broader audience we helped initiate a **Women's Affinity Group** to invite young professional women to explore the needs of Knox County for the future. With our intent to cover additional needs in the county we added 4 new partner agencies to address the issues of substance recovery and parenting needs. Our campaign has been a flurry of activity from our Riverwalk kickoff, to a Pavilion concert, a fantastic record setting chili cookoff, and wonderful surprises like the funds received from the Mr. Alice contest sponsored by the Lincoln Interact club.

We have been fortunate in being joined by new corporate partners like Futaba who held an open house with donations to United Way from corporate. They joined us with a very successful Day of Caring that included a record number of volunteers from throughout the county and invited

us to participate in the WVUB 91.1 shopping spree at Save-a-Lot.

Perhaps our crowning achievement of the year has been the community establishing a **Homeless Task Force**. The United Way and its Charity Tracker network helped organize and launch this local chapter of the Homeless Services Council of Southwest Indiana. We were also fortunate to receive funds from the Red Skelton Museum foundation through the historic Red Skelton Needy Children's fund that will now assist the Charity Tracker network moving forward.



**Team Futaba helps Mark & Lacey with 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish in shopping cart race donated to Salvation Army.**

### Partner Agency: Generations

**Staff Reporting:** Brenda Hancock

### Program Developments/Happenings:

- We are finishing up the Build-A-Basket season. Donated baskets are coming

in and being delivered to homebound individuals served by Generations. Donated baskets are due by December 13<sup>th</sup>.

- Generations has several open positions:
  - FULL-TIME PROFESSIONAL CASE MANAGER
  - PART-TIME RSVP DIRECTOR - KNOX COUNTY
  - PART-TIME RSVP DIRECTOR - GREENE COUNTY
  - PART-TIME VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Please direct all interested applicants to the Vincennes University website and click on *prospective employees* under menu.

**Special Events:** Generations' Caregiver Connection event took place at Green Activities Center on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Over 100 individuals attended and over 30 vendors were represented. The day was designed with the family caregiver in mind and included speakers, Deborah Day Laxson, author of The Gray Zone – When Life Support No Longer Supports Life; Maria Holmes with the Alzheimer's Association; and Dustin Ziegler with CICOA who discussed the Dementia Friends Indiana movement that will be rolling out in our area very soon.

**Staff or Client Spotlight:** Generations Options Counselor, Cindy Bailey was chosen from over 500 nominations to receive recognition from MedScope, a nationwide personal emergency response company, for her dedication to and willingness to go above and beyond for the individuals that she serves at Generations. Cindy was nominated by Generations' Assistant Director of Operations, Brian Hurt. A \$500

donation will be made in Cindy's name to the charity of her choice. Way to go, Cindy! We are proud of you!



### Homeless Task Force

The Knox County Homeless Task force was formally organized at Helping His Hands new facility with an excellent showing of agencies, civic leaders, and volunteers pulling together to form 5 committees to move the process forward:

- Steering Committee
- Education Committee
- Close the Front Door (prevention and diversion committee)
- Open the Back Door (Housing options committee)
- Build the Infrastructure

{Next quarterly meeting of the Task Force will be Tuesday March 3rd at 9:00 at Helping His Hands. Public is invited to attend and become involved.}



Capt. Curtis Lunnam on the receiving end of the Futaba food race



## LHS interact club Donates funds from The Mr. Alice program to United Way!

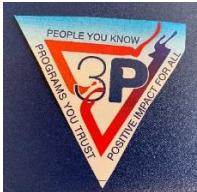
Our thanks to the officers and members of the LHS Interact club for a donation of \$1,200 to this year's campaign from the Mr. Alice program.



Thanks to our Corporate Sponsors at the Duke Plant in Edwardsport for a \$20,000 donation from their silent auction!



Campaign Chair Megan Seibert passes out department awards at GSH celebration



## Still time to donate

If you would like to donate to this year's campaign go to our Facebook page [UnitedWayofknoxcounty.org](http://UnitedWayofknoxcounty.org) and click on the donate button or text UWKnox to 41444



Chili Chef Jonathan Vennard gets an embrace from George Ansloan at record breaking chili cook off.



Mark Hill welcomes legendary autism advocate Temple Grandin to VU disability week co-sponsored by Knox County United Way.



**Familywize Wellness Day at Walmart will be January 11<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned to information about downloading a Walmart familywize app.**



**Dean Wagoner to retire – Long time HR director and United Way Volunteer Dean Wagoner is retiring from Good Samaritan and we thank him for his years of dedicated fund raising for our community and work on our board.**



**Corporate Partners Zachary present a surprise check to Director Mark Hill from a raffle previously held at the plant.**

### **Partner Agency: Knox County CASA**

#### **Staff Reporting: Director Denise Swink**

**Program Developments/Happenings:** Knox County CASA Has 2 New Staff Advocates Shayla Hughes and Keri Lane they swore in Nov 27 and have started taking cases and are serving 10 of children Making a huge impact on our wait list.

**Special Events:** Knox County CASA is looking for Volunteers if you know someone or are interested in volunteering please contact us [www.knoxcountycasa.com](http://www.knoxcountycasa.com)

**Staff or Client Spotlight:** Cheryl Hugunin swore in with Knox County CASA Program 3/31/2010. She has advocated for over 150 children in Knox county. She has worked as CASA Staff Advocacy Specialist for 4 years and is currently an advocate for 34 children. Cheryl lives in Bicknell and likes to spend time with her grandchildren.



**Happy Holidays from the Staff and Board of UWKC**