

To: Springfield News-Sun
From: United Way office
Date: September 27, 2007
Subject: Your Turn Article

Hello, I am Joe Jackson, Chair of the 2007 Clark County United Way Annual Campaign. I am excited to be leading this year's campaign and want to tell you about some highlights and successes of your local United Way, the United Way of Clark, Champaign and Madison Counties.

I hope you have seen our new brand, "HEROES WANTED" in our campaign materials, on our website or on local billboards. Everyone in our community can feel like a "HERO" by giving to the United Way. Visit our website to learn more about United Way and view the 2007 Campaign Video (www.unitedwayheroes.org).

Have you ever asked "where does the money go"? Our answer is your donation stays here! United Way is governed by a volunteer 25 member Board of Trustees with representatives from Clark, Champaign and Madison Counties. The Board has taken the position that dollars raised in each county stay in the county unless a donor requests otherwise. Our United Way has many dedicated volunteers who live and work in our community. These volunteers help United Way staff manage the organization, raise local dollars during our annual campaign, evaluate the impact of United Way supported programs and make critical funding decisions. Currently, our campaign cabinet volunteers are working very hard meeting with companies and talking to donors so that more people in the community can receive help.

United Way's Community Services Division includes three programs to help people in our community. Our United Way's Information & Referral/2-1-1 is one of only twenty 2-1-1 call centers in the State of Ohio! In the past, to reach Information and Referral you dialed 323-1400. Now you can access community resources by just dialing 2-1-1, 24 hours per day, every day of the year. You won't get a recording; your call will be answered by a real live person ready to assist!

Child Care Connections assists families by helping them find safe, caring child care in Clark and Champaign Counties. The program links child care providers by location and helped over 600 families find child care last year.

A listing of local volunteer opportunities for youth and adults is available through The Volunteer Center. The Volunteer Center also provides support to the annual Clark County Christmas Food and Toy distribution program. No less than 40 local organizations, churches and businesses participate in the annual effort. Last holiday season, 2,229 families were served by the program.

These programs and services are available to anyone in the community at no cost. These are just a few of the many services and programs that United Way supports. In fact, your United Way currently supports over 100 different programs in Clark, Champaign and Madison Counties that are making a measurable impact on people's lives. If you would like a publication of the most recent full year report that outlines United Way supported programs and their impact, please call our office at 937-324-5551.

Our community needs your continued support. You know the need is great. When you are asked to give to United Way, please say yes. Give what you can. Give generously. Everyone in our community can feel like a "HERO" by giving to the United Way. United Way guarantees your donations will be invested wisely ... helping people!

Biographical Information: Joe Jackson, Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of Clark State Community College. He has served on the United Way Campaign Cabinet for 10 years.