

Spring 2009 Update



HOPE participants and their mentors at a self defense class and challenge course

GIVE

These are women who walk-the-talk *and* write-the-check. Our very own **Women & Philanthropy** members are funding and volunteering for our new program for young women in foster care, the **H.O.P.E. Project**. Each carefully selected girl is matched with a mentor for a 3-year relationship aimed at developing trust in others, learning necessary skills for adulthood, and having fun. These are girls who've had to deal with many challenges in their lives and now, with the support of their mentors and H.O.P.E., will be prepared to be self-reliant, independent adults. They are learning financial literacy, self-defense, healthy relationships and more. Kim Tardie, the 2009 Women & Philanthropy chair, invites you to get more information about H.O.P.E. and Women & Philanthropy at www.unitedwaylane.org.

ADVOCATE

Where do you start finding help when you are suddenly unemployed? Who can you turn to? Today, laid-off workers seeking support can call one number to gain access to emergency funds, local food banks, child care, training, and employment opportunities. This response to a growing community crisis is a result of our community working together to find a solution *fast*. The Worksource Lane Helpline, was opened in March by the Lane Workforce Partnership in collaboration with Lane Community College, United Way of Lane County, the Oregon Dept. of Human Services and the Employment Department. Laid-off workers in most of Lane County can call **541-682-7200**. Those who live in Mapleton and Florence should call **541-997-3507**. The help line's hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

An online resource to FIND HELP and GIVE HELP can be found at www.211Lane.org.

VOLUNTEER

A hallmark of American life, from barn raisings to knitting socks, is how we come together when needed. Today's **volunteers** make sure that housebound seniors get daily meals and that at-risk youth have mentors. Volunteers, over 1,000 of them, helped 1,548 homeless and near-homeless guests at the 2009 Project Homeless Connect get food, clothing, healthcare, employment assistance and more. And, from February to April, 5,750 tax returns were filed for free by 114 volunteer tax-preparers through AARP's Tax-Aide with the support of United Way and the IRS. Thanks to those 114 volunteers, \$2,897,653 has already come back into the households of low/moderate wage individuals through Earned Income and Child Care Tax Credit with more on the way as all returns are processed. Volunteers change lives – one meal, one tax return, one helping hand at a time.

Seeking to find a meaningful volunteer opportunity? Visit www.unitedwaylane.org and click on VOLUNTEER. You'll go right to our volunteer data base where you can find your perfect job. Call us with questions at 541-741-6000 ext. 104.



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Dear Friends,

In the midst of these uncertain times, I find hope. Even though economic challenges draw our attention, I see a rekindled spirit of civic engagement and service in America.

As we report on the front of this card, volunteer energy is bringing prosperity and security to thousands right here in Lane County. And, the help line for recently unemployed people (see front) is the kind of fast response made possible by people and organizations coming together for the common good.

The LIVE UNITED call to action has resonated across Lane County. People see that living united through giving, advocating and volunteering is not only important; living united is what it will take to get us through today's tumultuous times.

United Way has been bringing people together for nearly 70 years in pursuit of the common good. Like many organizations today, we are making sacrifices in order to keep our work going forward. No matter what, United Way will be here for you, just like we were for your parents and your grandparents.

If there was ever a time to live united, it is now.
Join us through giving, advocating or volunteering.

Jeff Towery
2009 United Way Board Chair
Assistant City Manager, City of Springfield

