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N.C. AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER SERVICE NOMINATIONS

The United Way of Pitt County is now accepting nominations for the 2008 North Carolina Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service, managed by the North Carolina Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the program that showcases North Carolina's most dedicated volunteers. Through the years, North Carolinians have proven their concern and compassion for their neighbors by volunteering in their local communities.

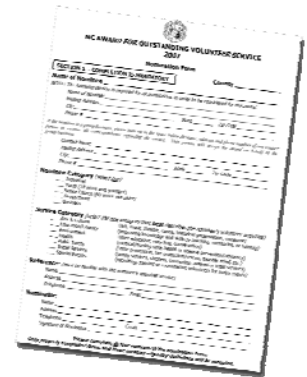
Any individual, group, business or organization that has completed substantial community service activity in the past year is eligible for nomination.

Nominees are judged on their time commitment, accomplishments and the impact of their service.

Service projects should address a community need and/or enhance the quality of life of North Carolinians, as well as demonstrate generosity and kindness.

“Nominating someone for the Outstanding Volunteer Service Award is an excellent way to recognize the invaluable contributions volunteers make to our society,” said Marilyn Williams, UWPC executive director. “It is a way to recognize that volunteers make everything we do possible.”

A four-part nomination form must be completed to nominate a person or group for the award. Completed forms will be examined by a volunteer committee. Five volunteers will be chosen for local recognition and one winner's name will be submitted to the NC Commission to be considered for the state-wide Medallion Award.



Persons may not nominate themselves, family members, spouses, winners from the past ten years or those completing court-mandated or paid services.

Forms are available at the UWPC office (1020 Red Banks Rd., Suite 201) or by contacting Dollie Lucas, UWPC director of donor relations, at 252-758-1604 x206, dlucas@uwpcnc.org.

Forms are due to UWPC by 5 p.m., July 18th.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Last month three people from your United Way had the opportunity to attend the United Way Community Leaders Conference in Baltimore. In addition to the inspiring keynotes, best practices roundtables, and how-to sessions, we were given a national challenge:

“FOR MANY MILLIONS OF HARD-WORKING FAMILIES, the basic ingredients for a good life are increasingly beyond reach. Almost one in four working parents don't earn enough to provide for their families. An alarming 25 percent of teenagers will not graduate on time, imperiling their chances to make a success-

ful transition to adulthood. Only one in three adults can be considered healthy, based on risk factor data from the Centers for Disease Control and



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LUNCHEON FOR LITERACY

**Thursday, June 26, 2008
at Noon**

**Outback Steakhouse
606 Greenville Boulevard
Greenville, NC**

Menu:

**Caesar salad
8 oz. Chicken on the Barbie
Garlic mashed potatoes
Cheesecake with raspberry topping
Iced Tea**

**Donation: \$10.00
Only 300 tickets available!**

**Luncheon benefits Literacy
Volunteers-Pitt County and the
Newspapers in Education program
at The Daily Reflector.**

**For more information,
call (252) 353-6578.**

DIRECTOR'S CORNER (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Prevention, and more than 49 million Americans lack even basic health insurance. Our nation can't accept these conditions. We need to challenge our systems—to create opportunities for a better life for everyone.

“By 2018, we as a nation must:

- *Cut by half the number of young people who drop out of high school*
- *Cut by half the number of lower-income families that lack financial stability*
- *Increase by a third the number of youths and adults who are healthy and avoid risky behaviors.*

“These targets—one in the area of education, another focused on income and a third focused on health—are building blocks for a good life. You need a quality education that leads to a stable job, enough income to support a family and good health.

“United Way has a theory about how to create changes of this magnitude. It begins with declaring bold goals.

When the stakes are high, Americans will rise to the occasion. That leads to partnership, the second critical element. We have to think differently about partnerships and set aside our special interests if we want to make real progress. This work requires collaboration across all sectors—big businesses, small businesses, elected officials, nonprofits, academia, the faith community, the labor movement, the media, parents and neighbors. Working together, we can accomplish things that no organization, no individual and no government can accomplish on its own... .” Brian A. Gallagher, President & CEO, United Way of America.

This is the work before us – our United Way, our community, united to **ADVANCE THE COMMON GOOD**. Our agenda will be unique, our style of collaboration will be our own, our results will be transformational. It is the moral obligation of leadership that compels us and will sustain us.

LITERACY VOLUNTEERS-PITT COUNTY \$10,000 GRANT RECIPIENT

Literacy Volunteers-Pitt County is pleased to announce that they have been awarded a \$10,000 grant from The Dollar General Literacy Foundation. Dollar General's commitment to literacy began with co-founder J.L. Turner who overcame many obstacles in order to launch a successful retail business with only a third grade education.

The grant will be used to support the LV-PC *Prepare for Success* project. The purpose of the project is to develop and imple-

ment courses, specifically in writing and math, for adult learners in the 6-9 grade level range whose desire is to obtain their GED, but whose skills need improvement in order to be successful in this endeavor. This pre-GED population will be offered courses in writing and math in addition to their regular literacy instruction.

In the community needs assessment survey, *Pitt*

County Voices, commissioned in 2006 by United Way of Pitt County, it was reported that one fifth of



Pitt County residents have not completed high school. The LV-PC *Prepare for Success* project is designed to reach those adults in our community for whom traditional high school completion might not have been a viable option.

Literacy Volunteers-Pitt County, serving the

area since 1987, is a community-based, non-profit, adult literacy organization whose mission is to help improve the literacy skills of adults in Pitt County. Adult learners receive assistance in reading, spelling, writing, English speaking skills, and computer basics.

Contact Literacy Volunteers to learn more about their services or how you can become involved by calling 252-353-6578 or info@literacy.org.



~ AGENCY SPOTLIGHT ~

GIRL SCOUTS-NORTH CAROLINA COASTAL PINES



Girl Scouts—North Carolina Coastal Pines exists to meet the unique needs of girls and to help them grow into caring and confident young women. With the support and guidance of adult volunteers, girls develop leadership skills while learning the importance of personal responsibility, the value of goal setting, the spirit of teamwork, and the thrill of accomplishment. From sports skill-building clinics to career mentoring, world travel and cultural exchanges to local community service projects, environmental stewardships to financial literacy, the Girl Scout program enables girls to be who they want to be.

Each year Girl Scouts—North Carolina Coastal Pines serves more than 32,000 girls, one in every 10 girls ages 5 to 17 in central and eastern North Carolina. Members hail from diverse racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds and include girls who are physically and mentally challenged.

Membership

Girls can become a member of Girls Scouts when they start kindergarten. Program age levels are:

- Daisy Girl Scouts: 5-6 years old; grades K-1
- Brownie Girl Scouts: 6-8 years old; grades 1-3

- Junior Girl Scouts: 8-11 years old; grades 3-6
- Teen Girl Scouts: 11-13 years old; grades 6-8, 13-15 years old; grades 8-10, and 15-17 years old; grades 10-12

- Corporations
- Foundations, non-profit groups, government grants
- Cookie Sale Program
- 30 local United Ways, including United Way of Pitt County

Each girl and adult member pays \$10 membership dues, all of which goes directly to the national organization. Girl Scout troops

maintain financial independence, and members pay troop dues to help support troop activities. Contributions to the council help to maintain camps, underwrite program and training costs, and provide services and materials to members throughout the council.



Why Girl Scouts?

Girl Scouting has a lasting impact on girls. It provides them with values, leadership development, diversity awareness, life skills, and community connections that last a lifetime.

Volunteers

The “girl” in Girl Scouts represents only a part of those involved. Nearly 10,000 adult volunteers serve as leaders, adult trainers, special events organizers, board members, and much more. Their volunteer commitment ranges from as little as a few hours a year to a few hours a week. By cultivating and working closely with volunteers, Girl Scouts-North Carolina Coastal Pines strengthens community resources and gives each Girl Scout an opportunity to develop a stable relationship with a supportive and caring adult.

Funding Sources

- Girl Scout families, staff, Board of Directors, and friends

YOUR CONNECTION

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This newsletter will also be available online at www.uwpcnc.org

If you have ideas for future issues of Your Connection, or to contribute an article for consideration, contact Lindsey Brown.



GIRL SCOUT SUMMER CAMP

The summer will soon be here, and with Girl Scouts, loads of fun and adventure awaits your girl. Whether girls go for a day, a week, or longer, Girl Scout summer camp gives girls ages 5-17 the opportunity to grow and explore—always under the guidance of caring, trained adults. Girl Scouts-North Carolina Coastal Pines offers summer camp at four beautiful camp properties: Camp Graham on Kerr Lake in

Vance County, Camp Hardee on the Pamlico River in Beaufort County, Camp Mary Atkinson in Johnston County near Selma, and Camp Pretty Pond in Brunswick County near Wilmington. For more information, visit their website, www.nccoastalpines.org, email summer-camp@nccoastalpines.org or call 1-800-284-4475.