



### Mission Statement

To mobilize resources and leadership to build a stronger community.

### Vision Statement

Champions of our community, empowering people and improving lives.

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## EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER MONEY AVAILABLE TO PITT COUNTY AGENCIES

A \$95,003 federal appropriation for supplemental emergency food and shelter funding has been awarded to Pitt County. Local organizations, whether non-profit or governmental, have until March 19<sup>th</sup> to apply for emergency food and shelter program funds. Applications are available at the United Way of Pitt County (UWPC) office, 1020 Red Banks Road in Greenville between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. or by contacting Lindsey Brown at 252-758-1604, ext. 209. Applications received after March 19<sup>th</sup> will not be reviewed. A new agency applying for funding may only request up to \$1,000 the first year.

Organizations chosen to receive funds must be a nonprofit, have an accounting system, practice nondis-

crimination, have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs and, if they are a private voluntary organization, they must have a voluntary board. Organizations may only request funding to serve Pitt County residents.

The Emergency Food and Shelter Program was created by Congress in 1983 to help meet the needs of hungry and homeless people throughout the United States by allocating federal funds for the provision of food and shelter. The program is governed by a national board composed of representatives of the United Way of America; the American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; United Jewish Communities; The National Council of the

Churches of Christ in the USA and The Salvation Army. UWPC will provide the administrative staff and function as fiscal agent for the Pitt County appropriation.

During its 20 years of operation, the program has disbursed over \$2 billion to over 11,000 local providers in more than 2,500 counties and cities. The program's objectives are to allocate funds to the neediest areas, ensure fast response, foster public/private sector cooperation, ensure local decision making and to maintain minimal, but accountable, reporting.

A local board, including representatives from the City and County, Greenville

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### DIRECTOR'S CORNER



This is an open invitation to all those who believe everyone needs a safe and secure place to call HOME. The Blue Ribbon Task Force developing Pitt County's 10 Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness (BRTF), is sponsoring a series of Public Forums during April. It is an opportunity to both learn something about issues, challenges and successes involved with ending chronic homelessness, AND a chance to offer your thoughts, suggestions and support. The topics the Forums will cover are: Mental and Physical Health, Housing, Job Training, and Planning for a Life Transition. During each Forum, there will be a presentation related to the subject. Following that, the audience will be asked to break into discussion groups. The feed back from these groups, along with the results of our Focus Groups, best practices search and local research will

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Restaurant Share Day to benefit

**Creative Living Center**  
April 8

For more information on  
participating restaurants call  
252.757.3344

### Family Support Network Eastern NC Workshop Announcements

**Transitional Care  
Workshop: Transitioning  
from Pediatric to Adult Medi-  
cine for families  
and professionals**

Presented by:  
Dr. Gregg Talente  
Brody School of Medicine  
Assistant Professor  
Internal Medicine

March 13, 2008  
7:00 pm

Pitt Community College  
Leslie Building, Room 143

**Estate Planning  
Workshop: For Families with  
Children that have Special  
Needs**

Presented by:  
Mark Yercheck, Merrill Lynch  
March 18, 2008

6:30 pm

Pitt Community College  
Leslie Building, Room 143

For more information, please call  
252.328.9332

## 2008 CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

United Way of Pitt County recently launched a new Corporate Sponsorship Program. The United Way of Pitt County Corporate Sponsorship Program allows companies or businesses to make a single, comprehensive annual gift in support of all special activities and initiatives implemented by United Way of Pitt County. This sponsorship entitles organizations to year-round co-branding with the United Way

of Pitt County. Sponsorship dollars will be used to sponsor events such as the Leadership Reception, Day of Caring, Campaign Kickoff, 2009 Annual Meeting, and much more from April 2008~March 2009. Sponsorship packages start at \$1,000. For more information on the United Way of Pitt County Corporate Sponsorship Program, contact Lindsey Brown at 758-1604, ext. 209.

## BYRON PITTS TO SPEAK AT ECU

**April 8, 2008 @ 2:00 p.m.**  
**Hendrix Auditorium, ECU**  
**Free of charge and open to the public**



Byron Pitts, CBS national correspondent and former Greenville newscaster, believes the U.S. is experiencing a crisis in leadership. Mr. Pitts will speak to East Carolina University on leadership in the context of social justice and the challenges set before American leaders today. Mr. Pitts says, "The nation has lost confidence in our politicians. From Afghanistan to Iraq and to New Orleans post-Katrina and all the places in between, I've seen up close and first hand the high cost of what happens when leadership fails. We have a surplus of lawyers, preachers, politicians, etc. Smart people we got. Righteous leadership...in short supply. My personal journey through illiteracy and stuttering speaks to some of the same issues: personal responsibility, education and training, mentoring and nurturing are all key ingredients to making someone into a leader." To learn more about Byron Pitts and his remarkable "journey through illiteracy," to become a nationally recognized news correspondent, visit <http://www.greatertalent.com/speakers/speakers.php?speakerid=676>. For further details on the lecture, contact Dr. Mary S. Jackson at 252-737-2067, [jacksonmar@ecu.edu](mailto:jacksonmar@ecu.edu); or Peggy Novotny at 252-328-2882, [novotnym@ecu.edu](mailto:novotnym@ecu.edu).



## ~ AGENCY SPOTLIGHT ~ LITERACY VOLUNTEERS-PITT COUNTY



Did you know that one in four adults in Pitt County struggles to write a letter or read directions on a prescription bottle due to low literacy skills? For them, simple everyday tasks present real problems. Many of us take for granted being able to understand traffic signs, fill out a job application, follow directions on a map, or read the newspaper.

Their families suffer too. Parents with low literacy skills have trouble reading to their children - so many don't even try. In these homes, books and opportu-

nities for learning may not even exist. Sadly, the literacy levels of children are strongly linked to the literacy skills of their parents.

**Literacy Volunteers – Pitt County** is an organi-



zation whose mission is to improve the literacy skills of adults in our community. This is accomplished through trained volunteer

tutors who provide one-on-one and small group tutoring. Literacy Volunteers provides assistance free of charge for individuals who need help with:

- Pre-GED
- Reading
- Writing
- Basic Math
- English Communication
- Basic Computer Skills

For more information about Literacy Volunteers you may visit their website at [www.pittliteracy.org](http://www.pittliteracy.org) or call them at (252) 353-6578.

## YOUR CONNECTION

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This newsletter will also be available online at [www.uwpcnc.org](http://www.uwpcnc.org)

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



## LITERACY VOLUNTEERS-PITT COUNTY'S 4TH ANNUAL ENRICHING MINDS SERIES

**Tuesday, March 18th**

**The Greenville Hilton**

“One of North Carolina’s funniest women” according to Our State magazine, Kelly Swanson delivers clean side-splitting keynotes and break-out sessions. Swanson’s messages motivate audiences to stay on the “funny side of life” while cultivating and maintaining healthy personal and professional relationships. Her programs are downright hilarious yet informative and inspiring.

**Seminar 9am-10:30am (Cost \$85)**

Surveys indicate that senior personnel prefer employees with humor. Laughter facilitates communication, builds relationship and reduces stress. Learn how to bring humor back into the workplace during Swanson’s title seminar “If this is my dream job, somebody wake me up.”

**Brunch 11am-1pm (Cost \$45)**

Over brunch, Swanson will entertain guests with her humorous act “It’s all fun and games ‘til the hair gets messed up.”

**For tickets, call 252.353.6578 (Advance Ticket Purchase Required)**

## EFSP MONEY

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Utilities Commission, United Way of Pitt County and various local nonprofit organizations, will determine how the funds awarded to Pitt County will be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service organizations in the area. The local board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds available under this phase of the program.

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

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all become the "raw materials" for drafting the final BRTF Report and Recommendations. The dates, time, and locations are confirmed; the topic for each date is not – we are waiting to hear back from some of the presenters. If you have any questions, please contact Paulette White at (252) 902-3282 or [endhomelessness@pittcountync.gov](mailto:endhomelessness@pittcountync.gov), or visit the Journey Home website at [www.pittcountync.gov/depts/planning/homelessness](http://www.pittcountync.gov/depts/planning/homelessness).

### **Public Forums Dates, Times and Locations**

All Public Forums are on a Tuesday evening, from 6:30 – 8:30 pm, as follows:

#### **April 1**

Pitt County

School & Recreation

#### **April 8**

Taft Christian Life Center at  
Jarvis Memorial  
Methodist Church

#### **April 22**

Boys & Girls Club North

#### **April 29**

Eppes Community Center

# IRS STIMULUS PACKAGE UPDATE



The big news recently has been the Economic Stimulus Package signed by President Bush.

This is just a 'head's up' notification so that you can begin planning, but please wait for final information from the IRS before going forward. According to IR-2008-1918, "The IRS will be sending taxpayers their payments in early May after the current tax season concludes." The following answers to some frequently asked questions is what has been published by the IRS so far. You should check [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) periodically for any additional information.

### **Who qualifies for the payment?**

Taxpayers who file a federal income tax return for 2007 showing qualifying income.

### **What income is considered qualifying income?**

Earned income such as wages and net self-employment income as well as Social Security. See FS-2008-15 for a complete list.

### **Is Social Security Retirement Income qualifying income? Yes**

### **Is Social Security Disability Income qualifying income? Yes**

### **Is Supplemental Security Income qualifying income? No**

### **Is there a minimum amount of qualifying income in order to receive the payment?**

Yes, \$3000. These taxpayers will be eligible to receive a payment of \$300 (\$600 on a joint return) if they had at least \$3,000 of qualifying income.

- Low-income workers who have earned income above \$3,000 but do not have a regular filing requirement must file a 2007 tax return to receive the minimum stimulus payment. Similarly, Social Security recipients, certain Railroad retirees, and those who receive the veterans' benefits mentioned in FS-2008-15 must file a 2007 return in order to

notify the IRS of their qualifying income.

- The IRS emphasized that people with no filing requirement who turn in a tax return to qualify for the economic stimulus payment will not get a tax bill. People in this category will not owe money because of the stimulus payment.

**Will receiving an economic stimulus payment in any way affect my eligibility for other federal benefits, such as temporary assistance for needy families, food stamps, or Social Security? Will it count as income for purposes of my Social Security benefits?** No. The stimulus payments will not have any effect on eligibility for federal benefits.

### **What about individuals who filed a 2007 tax return to report income of less than \$3,000, in order to receive EITC, and received SSDI but didn't report it because it isn't taxable?**

Taxpayers who already have filed but did not report these benefits can file an amended return by using Form 1040X, which can only be filed with a paper form.

### **What about individuals who have not filed a 2007 tax return and do not have any income to report other than the SSDI?**

The IRS and Treasury are working with the Social Security Administration and the Department of Veterans Affairs along with beneficiary organizations to ensure that all eligible individuals know what to do to receive a stimulus payment. For now, taxpayers in this group filing a tax return can only file a paper copy of the Form 1040 or Form 1040A. The IRS is working to update its systems to accept electronic versions of these limited-information returns for taxpayers who otherwise have no need to file a tax return. The IRS is also working with the software community to handle these returns electronically at a future date.

Visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) for more information on the economic stimulus package.