

Brittany Solomon

From: United Way of Blair County <mshildt@unitedwayofblaircounty.org>
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2016 3:55 PM
To: Brittany Solomon
Subject: How Will You LIVE UNITED?



United Way
of Blair County

January 2016



5th Annual Jeans & Teams

It is not too late to participate in our 5th Annual Jeans & Teams event. During the months of January and February, Blair County businesses are encouraged to allow employees to dress in jeans and their favorite team apparel in exchange for a \$5.00 donation.

Proceeds raised through Jeans & Teams help support 30+ local human service agencies that address the needs of our community: education, financial stability, health, and emergency disaster relief. If businesses were unable to participate today, we encourage them to choose another date in January or February to hold a Jeans & Teams day.

Three Easy Steps to Participate:

1. Go to www.unitedwayofblaircounty.org/Jeans&Teams to download the registration form along with other Jeans & Teams supplies.
2. Notify your employees of the date and how to participate.
3. Collect proceeds from Jeans & Teams participants and submit to United Way of Blair County.

** Do not forget to send Brittany Solomon, Development Director bsolomon@unitedwayofblaircounty.org your Jeans & Teams photos to share on our Facebook page and website. **



Toasty Toddler Impact Facts



ADVOCATE



VOLUNTEER

In This Issue

Save the Date
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SAVE THE DATE!

February 2016

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program Opens for Appointments

February 27, 2016

Glass Slipper Project-Prom Gown Distribution

March 18, & March 19, 2016

Glass Slipper Project-Prom Gown Distribution

April 7, 2016

4th Annual Laugh United at the Blair County Convention Center

April 16, 2016

Week of the Young Child

May 14, 2016

Trash to Treasure

509 children benefited from the generosity of 26 participating area businesses, agencies, clubs, and churches as well as 35 volunteers,



and countless individuals donating winter wear and funds this winter season. From the tips of our toes to the top of our heads, we thank you for your support!

Volunteer Opportunities

Laugh United

Laugh United - April 7, 2016

5:00-10:00 pm



Our 4th Annual Laugh United signature event will be an entertaining evening in large part due to help from volunteers. From greeting attendees to helping with our silent auction and raffles, we cannot do it without you. **Contact Brittany Solomon, Development Director, at (814)-944-0884, ext. 308 or bsolomon@unitedwayofblaircounty.org for more information.**

Week of the Young Child

The Week of the Young Child Celebration will be held Saturday, April 16, 2016 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Altoona Grand Hotel, 1 Sheraton Drive, Altoona. The celebration is a collaborative, free fair provided by Blair County agencies, individuals, clubs, and businesses concerned with the education, health, and welfare of young children and their families. Anyone interested in participating in or organizing the event is invited to contact the Family Resource Center at United Way.

For more information or to enroll, please call (814)-941-7711.



The Glass Slipper Project will provide FREE formal wear to Blair County high school students. The project's goal is to ensure they have the attire they need to attend their formal dance.

Collection: January through March
United Way of Blair County will be collecting new and gently-worn prom, special occasion, and bridesmaid's dresses. In addition to gown donations, formal shoes, purses, and other accessories are also being collected.

Distribution: Sat., Feb. 27th 12-4pm
Fri., Mar. 18th 5:30-8:30pm
Sat., Mar. 19th 12-4pm

Location: Pennsylvania Highlands Community College, Blair Campus at the Logan Valley Mall

For more details contact:

Linda Adams
Community Outreach Coordinator
United Way of Blair County
(814)-944-0884, ext.

302 outreach@unitedwayofblaircounty.org

V.I.T.A

FREE TAX PREPARATION

Where free is really free!

We are now accepting appointments for Wednesdays during the following hours:

10:00 am-2:00 pm
5:45-8:15 pm.

**Impact Grant Recipient Spotlight:
Family Services, Inc.**

The Teen Shelter

Family Services, Inc. recently received their Federal Grant that will enable operations from 2015-2018. The Teen Center and Shelter is currently in the process of being relocated. The new location, pictured above, is 1701 6th Avenue. The new shelter is less than one block from the Altoona Area High School and Altoona Area Jr. High School. The goal was to be in the new location by September 2015, but there were some roadblocks along the way:

- It took several months for code enforcement to approve plans, resulting in construction delays.
- It took 3 months to contract with a business to install the sprinkler system.
- Plumbing issues- prior to installing the sprinkler system, our plumber had to perform several tests. A major sewer issue was discovered and addressed.

Currently installation of a handicapped accessible bedroom and bathroom is in process. Once all construction is completed an application for licensing through the Bureau of Human Services Licensing will be submitted. While waiting to begin major renovations some minor projects were able to be completed with the help of community volunteers.

Look for an upcoming fundraising event organized by an Altoona Area High School student to benefit the Teen Shelter. The event is tentatively scheduled for the second week of February and will be an 80's-themed choral concert at the high school.

Appointments will be held beginning February 3, 2016 and run through April 13, 2016. For best selection of appointment times, please schedule early.

For more information or to schedule an appointment please contact Linda Adams at (814)-944-0884, ext. 302.

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<http://www.myfreetaxes.com>

Marianna's Hoagie Sale

A Marianna's hoagie sale is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 24, 2016** to benefit the Family Resource Center at United Way of Blair County and the Parents as Teachers Program.

Hoagies are \$7 each. Choices include Italian, All American, Ham, Ham Club, Roast Beef, Turkey/Ham, Turkey, Turkey on Wheat, Traditional, and Cheese.

Pizzas are \$8 each. Choices include Pepperoni, White, Cheese, Meat Supreme, and Primo Deluxe.

The Domestic Abuse Project

The Domestic Abuse Project of Family Services, Inc. provides comprehensive domestic violence services to victims of domestic violence and their significant others in Blair County. The program was recently awarded a grant from the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV) to open a Civil Legal Representation program. The Civil Legal Representation (CLR) program will provide victims of domestic violence with quality legal assistance, representation, advice, and financial assistance to cover court related expenses as they attempt to start a life free from violence. Domestic Abuse Project staff will assess each victim's needs and make referrals for eligible clients to the CLR program, which will provide legal representation for custody, spousal/child support, divorce, housing and public benefits. Referrals to the Civil Legal Representation program will come from the Domestic Abuse Project of Family Services Incorporated, including referrals from the emergency domestic violence shelter and the Protection from Abuse Office, as well as individual and group counseling clients. The Domestic Abuse project will utilize the Civil Legal Representation funding to hire one full time Staff Attorney, one part time Senior Managing Attorney, and one legal secretary. Due to the budget impasse, the opening of the CLR office has been postponed for several months, but now that funding for domestic violence services has been approved, the program is working to open the office as soon as possible. The tentative start date for the new service is March 1, 2016.

The Family Shelter

The Family Shelter is currently in need of a larger shelter. The current shelter only accommodates 16 individuals. The shelter is always full. When a vacancy occurs it is filled

Orders and payment are due no later than Thursday, February 11th for a February 24th delivery.

For more information, please contact Julie Colabove at (814) 941-7711

Martin Luther King, Jr. Mini Day of Service

Thank you to all of the volunteers and agencies who participated in our first annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Mini Day of Service. The day was a success because of your passion, dedication, and hard work.

Thank you for choosing to **LIVE UNITED!**

within hours. In the past fiscal year the Family Shelter provided shelter to 143 individuals and turned away 543 individuals due to the shelter being full. Lisa Hann, Executive Director, is collaborating with a group formed by Blair County Human Services made up of representatives from local community service agencies, local development corporations, elected officials, and interested community members. The goal of this committee is to build a shelter to accommodate 35-40 men, women, and children. This facility would be handicapped accessible and completed without mortgage so Family Services would only be responsible for operating costs. Realistically, operation costs at this new shelter would be higher than current operation costs.

Random Acts of Kindness Day February 17, 2016

Imagine if for one day, all of your social media feeds were flooded with kindness. Uplifting news stories, inspiring quotes, kind comments...for one week everyone united to focus on the positive.

We know you spread kindness every day, but here's a day we can go all out! Random Acts of Kindness Day is a day to celebrate kindness. For more information visit www.randomactsofkindness.org.

Here are just a few ideas:

- Help someone load or unload their groceries.
- Write a letter to someone who made a difference in your life.
- Return a shopping cart.
- Pick up a random piece of trash and properly dispose of it.
- Say "good morning" to everyone you pass.
- Thank your employees.
- Clean out your closet and donate any unused items to a local shelter or charity.

Share Your Kindness Story - Did you see a random act of kindness take place? Were you the recipient of a kind act? Share your story on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/UnitedWayBlairCounty.

2015-2016 CORPORATE DONORS

United Way of Blair County would like to thank its 2015-2016 campaign corporate donors. Donations to the United Way of Blair County campaign are used to support impact grants that are awarded to local non-profit, human service programs that address the needs of our community. Thank you for choosing to **LIVE UNITED!**

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