

# Living the United Way

## ON THE CALENDAR:

### November 2010

Toys for Tots donations are accepted through December. Toys for Tots late registration will be tentatively scheduled for November 30<sup>th</sup>. Call United Way for more information.

### December 2010

Safeplace Lights of Hope- A Christmas wreath will be displayed at the court house. Lights will shine on the wreaths in honor or remembrance of your friends and family for a donation. For more information contact Safeplace at -256-767-3076 or email at [safeplaceinc@gmail.com](mailto:safeplaceinc@gmail.com)

New Reflections, a support group for survivors of domestic violence, meets every Thursday night at 6:30.

## MEET THE STAFF:

- **Beth Haddock**  
(Executive Director)
- **Karon Grubbs**  
(Campaign Manager)
- **Brooke Vanderford**  
(CFC Associate)
- **Ashley Butler**  
(Finance Associate)

## United in Giving

United Way of Northwest Alabama held Toys for Tots registration from Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup> through Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at the Salvation Army Offices located at 1601 Huntsville Rd. in Florence. Registration for both Toys for Tots and the Salvation Army's Angel Tree took place at the same time which made it easier on families seeking assistance. A tentative make-up registration date is coming up on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

Toys for Tots is a drive that brings donated toys from across the valley to the families with children fifteen years of age or younger who need them. With less than two months of shopping days left until Christmas, United Way is busily preparing to help out Santa.

Last year's Toys for Tots program reached 422 families in Franklin, Lauderdale, and Colbert Counties and 900 children with the help of about 20 volunteers and,



of course, the generous donations of toys from the community. This year we hope to bring even more families a bit of Christmas cheer, but we need you in order to make it happen. You are an indispensable part of this special program, and United Way would like to thank our faithful contributors. If you have never made a donation to Toys for Tots, this is a very good year to start! In addition to toys, we will be accepting bicycles this year. As always, we request that the donations be new, undamaged items. You can deposit donations at any of the many Shoals area drop offs during the

months of November and December.

We are excited about another great year of serving the community through Toys for Tots thanks to the support of people just like you. If you have further questions or need more information, please call the United Way office at (256) 764-5892 between the hours of 9:00 am and 4:30 pm and we will glad to assist you. United Way of Northwest Alabama wishes you a safe and happy holiday season!

## United in Action

*“The school-based program is designed to bring the unique benefits of Big Brothers Big Sisters right into the classroom.”*

United Way of Northwest Alabama helps its 22 agencies fund forty programs. This quarter's issue puts the spotlight on Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Shoals for its School-Based Mentoring program. Big Brothers Big Sisters of America is a national youth service organization that pairs children with mentors. The school-based program is designed to bring the unique benefits of Big Brothers Big Sisters right into the classroom. A child is selected by his or her teacher and then matched

by Big Brothers Big Sisters with a mentor known as a Big. This Big becomes not only a mentor but a friend. Children who participate in the program are more likely to have a positive attitude towards their academic studies, more self-confidence, higher academic performance, as well as better school attendance. On the flip side, volunteer Bigs can fulfill community service hours, develop leadership qualities, and make a difference in the life of child.

When you give to the United Way you are helping to fund local programs like this one. Our BBBS, for example, reaches schools in both Florence and Sheffield Cities. Volunteers are from the professional community, students from the University of North Alabama, or even high school students in Sheffield. On behalf of Big Brothers Big Sisters, your community, and your children, we thank you for your support.

## United in Service

United Way would like to congratulate The Arc of the Shoals, one of its partner agencies, for being chosen by The Arc of Alabama to receive the 2010 Mr. and Mrs. Alex Ziring Award. This award is presented for distinguished service and an innovative approach to furthering an inclusive life for people with disabilities and their families.

The Arc of the Shoals has adopted a quote from Edward Everett Hale: “I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do

everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do” to represent its mission. It has developed a reputation for not only service but award-winning service. With the JC Penny Volunteer of the Year Award and the President's Volunteer Service Award already on its list, this is yet another representation of a job well done.

Still these honors are nothing compared to the

difference this agency has been making in the community. The Arc of the Shoals has taken on various projects such as Meals on Wheels has volunteered to assist organizations like the Salvation Army and other organizations with whatever they may need, and are well-known for their involvement with Loaves and Fishes. Congratulations again and thank you for all that you do!

**United Way of Northwest Alabama**  
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Live United:  
Give. Advocate.  
Volunteer.



We're on the Web!

[www.uwnwal.org](http://www.uwnwal.org)

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

The United Way of Northwest Alabama brings together people and resources to help meet the needs of our friends, neighbors, co-workers and families in Northwest Alabama. United Way of Northwest Alabama is committed to achieving tangible results. We help the most people by utilizing a range of community resources, acting as a center point for communication and planning, and using best practices to take action. Through partnerships and leadership, United Way of Northwest Alabama makes our community a better place to live.

United Way is a natural point for communication and planning. By acting as a catalyst for the non-profit, public, and private sectors, we mobilize the community's CARING POWER.

We are a community solutions leader, helping more people improve their lives. United Way maximizes the impact of your investment of time, money, talent, and influence in creating solutions for the most critical issues throughout Northwest Alabama.

Our mission is "to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of the community to create lasting change."

## Memorials and Honorariums

A gift to United Way of Northwest Alabama in memory or in honor of a loved one is a personal and lasting tribute. When you send an honorarium, we will quickly send an appropriate acknowledgement to the bereaved family or to the person you wish to honor. The acknowledgement will not include the amount of your gift. Your thoughtful memorial or honorarium gift helps carry on the work of improving lives and community conditions far into the future. Also, please remember United Way in your will or estate plans, and let us know when you do so we can thank you!



**Call 2-1-1:** A confidential and free information and referral service providing help in locating services for people with problems and needs.

**HAVE YOU BEEN GIVING TO UNITED WAY 10 YEARS OR MORE?**

**If so YOU are a Loyal Contributor.**

Please let us know by contacting The United Way office at 256-764-5892