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United Way South Sarasota County

Autumn 2015 Executive Director Message– Maryann Terry



It is hard to believe that our 2015-2016 Campaign year is already into its third month. Have you had your campaign workplace kickoff yet?? Come join your friends at Publix Supermarkets, Sarasota County Schools, neighborhood businesses and our 28 UWSSC agencies in giving and promoting community programs that generate equal opportunity for all. We have some proven ideas on how to encourage gifts to our service agencies that continually support, helping people live better lives. One never knows when a short term crisis could happen to you or a friend that may lead you on the road to the poor house. One call to the office can get things rolling for you and help you to understand that over 40% of South County households are still trying to survive that inflationary squeeze from the steadily increasing goods and service costs most of us feel but for others, keeps holding them on the edge of poverty. Many of our agencies know all too well that not everyone starts out with the same chances at life. They observe parents working “their tails off” just to have enough for the basics with any type of family splurges being very rare. They hear about difficult circumstances that are beyond their control and have generated road blocks that have kept them from getting ahead. That is why the UWSSC funds programs that concentrate on equaling the playing field for our local children, adults and seniors in need so they can improve their chances of reaching the “American Dream”; that notion that hard work, coupled with the US economic, political and social systems can make success possible for everyone. Programs that promote work and help families build a secure future. UWSSC agencies supply a scope of resources, counselling, safe places for those in need and introduce programming that will help them engage and to identify their full potential with positive solution’s that will impact their health, financial stability and educational readiness. Without these life cornerstones, long lasting changes just won’t happen and our community’s economy will suffer by creating an even wider level of poverty. Thank you for considering to be part of the change.

- **Agency Meeting November 13th, 9am @ the Venice Salvation Army, 1051 Albee Farm Road**
- **Fish United Way Tournament Nov. 15, 2015 on Lake Parrish, go to www.fishunitedway.com**
- **Agency 1st Quarter reports due November 30th, 2015**
- **Bay Indies Pancake Breakfast Feb. 10th, 2016 8-11 am**





Congratulations to the Gene Matthews Boys & Girls of North Port Club Member **Whitney Stewart** who was honored as 2015-2016 American Youth of the Year at the National Building Museum in Washington, DC last month!!

Whitney will now be the official teen Spokesperson for Buys & Girls Club of

America for the upcoming year. She has also been awarded \$140,000 in scholarships, a new Toyota and a trip to Disney. Whitney is a recent graduate of Sarasota Military Academy and is now heading to the University of Pennsylvania. Whitney has said that "before the Boys & Girls Club I didn't know a place existed where I could be surrounded by kids who would use their words to build others up, not tear them down." She went on to talk about the caring staff in North Port and how they wholeheartedly believed in each Club Member regardless of their circumstances.. Congratulations Whitney!!



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WITH UNITED WAY
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TABLES.**

**TICKETS CAN ALSO BE
PURCHASED AT
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941-308-4357 Dial Direct for Information on all Community Resources



Sarasota

Manatee

DeSoto



North Port Walk-a-thon March 19th

at North Port City Center Rear Courtyard 8am to 11am with music, food, prizes, BBQ, T-shirts and information tables with the opportunity to raise money for your own cause. Visit our website to download your team packet or a Sponsorship form today.

Venice Walk-a-thon February 20, 2016

Centennial Park Downtown Venice 8am to 11am with music from **The Cry'n Shames**, prizes, t-shirts, food, information tables, free health screenings and the opportunity for you to raise money for your own cause. Visit our website to download your team packet or Sponsorship form now!

www.uwssc.org

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**LIVE UNITED
BETHECHANGE**

UWSSC raises funds and awareness for 28 local nonprofit agencies that strive to improve and impact the educational readiness, income stability and healthy lifestyles choices for our local children adults, families and seniors in South Sarasota County. Visit www.uwssc.org

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