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SERVING THE PEOPLE OF VEN-

ICE, OSPREY,

United Way South Sarasota County

February 2016 Executive Director Message— Maryann Terry



You know the old adage “it takes a village”, well it’s usually spot-on. Rarely does it come down to just one person that makes all the decisions without comments, discussions or prayers from other concerned parties. Family, friends and community liaisons help define and share the load of responsibility into manageable pieces. Take UWSSC for instance; we are a community account funded by this community, governed by this community and used by this community as a village safety net for residents who have fallen into hard times, need a hand up and do not want to be a burden on anyone. Once a year UWSSC looks for 30 Allocation Panel volunteers to help our Board of Director’s make the tough decisions on where to allocate our community funds for the year. These volunteers form several group panels, lead by a United Way Board Member, that review about 5 program applications. Then they, go on site visits and interview the agency staff. A score sheet is utilized during this process for impartiality, so they can objectively rate how each agency is making a real difference in South County. Panel members must be local residents and able to volunteer around 8 hours in-between the months of April and June. The Panel Lead then summarizes their panels findings and take all recommendations to the Board of Directors for final determinations. Want to be part of the “Village People”? Go to our website at www.uwssc.org and go under the volunteer tab and download the Allocation Volunteer Sheet / Village People and email it back. All of our agencies are listed there with their program information to help you get even more familiar with their work and our events. We need your help! Live United to be the change you want to see in the world!

- **2016 Fish United Way Tournaments Dates: February 6th and May 21st on FPL’s Cooling Pond in Parrish, go to www.fishunitedway.com**
- **Agencies 2nd Quarter reports due February 28th, 2016**
- **Bay Indies Pancake Breakfast Feb. 10th, 2016 8-11 am**
- **Venice Walk-a-thon and Mini Health Fair, Feb. 20th at Centennial Park-check website for team packets.**
- **North Port Walk-a-thon and Sweet Heats BBQ March 19th at North Port City Center Campus-team packets on our**





A **free** life insurance program is being offered to healthy people ages 19-42 with one or more children under the age of 18 and with total family incomes between \$10,000 and \$40,000. The insurance benefits must be used for educational expenses of surviving children. The insurance comes through a LifeBridge policy intended to provide children with the opportunity to get an education if an insured parent/legal guardian dies during the term of the policy. LifeBridge is a product of MassMutual Financial Group. Currently, Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company (MassMutual) has approved over 13,600 policies nationally as of 6/15/15, which is more than \$680 million in free life insurance coverage. LifeBridge acknowledges that many of the people who value life insurance MOST are often those who can LEAST afford it. Many of our career agents have enthusiastically donated their time and services to the program. They view LifeBridge as an extension of the time they already donate to their communities. There is no commission on any LifeBridge policies written. Under the LifeBridge Program, an eligible parent or legal guardian will have a \$50,000, 10 year term life insurance policy issued on their life. MassMutual pays the premiums. If a covered parent or legal guardian dies during the policy term, the money goes directly to a trust fund, managed by The MassMutual Trust Company, FSB, a wholly owned stock subsidiary of MassMutual, to pay for the educational expenses of the child (ren). Covered expenses include books, tuition, fees, and room and board. The types of schools covered include pre-school, private school, trade school or college. We have teamed up with several community-based organizations that serve people who we believe are eligible for the program. We are also working with employers and faith based organizations to help identify qualified applicants. People who are interested in the LifeBridge Program should contact Cindie St. George, LifeBridge/Community Responsibility, MassMutual at 1-800-767-1000 ext. 45031 or via e-mail at cstgeorge@massmutual.com. Learn more at <http://www.uwof.org/free-life-insurance>

**myfree
taxes.com**

PREPARE YOUR OWN TAXES ONLINE **FOR FREE**

United Way's Volunteer Income Tax Program is now available FREE for those who make under \$60,000. Go to Skye Family YMCA Wednesdays from 4 to 8pm Or Saturdays from 10am to 2pm. At the North Port Family Service Center on Pan American Blvd. Thursdays 5 to 8:30pm or Saturdays from 10am to 2pm Or go on line to www.myfreetaxes.com

LIVE UNITED™



GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

941-308-4357 Dial Direct for Information on all Community Resources



Sarasota

Manatee

DeSoto

United Way
2-1-1

Bay Indies and **United Way**
United Way of South Sarasota County

Invite you to Our Community
Pancake Breakfast
Wednesday, February 10th • 8am to 11am
at Indies Hall in the Bay Indies Resort Community

\$5.00
will get you
• Pancakes
• Sausage
• Fruit & Coffee

Tickets sold
that morning
for
**RAFFLE
PRIZES &
50/50**

United Way of South Sarasota County
10th Annual
**VENICE
WALK-A-THON**
United Way (Rain or Shine)
February 20, 2016
Centennial Park on the Island of Venice
Registration: 8 to 9am
Walk & Information Fair: 9 to 11:30am
Awards, Pictures & Food: 10 to 11:30am
Go to www.uwssc.org and download a walk packet for
yourself or your team or call **941-484-4811**

Herald Tribune media group **Publix** **VILLAGE ON THE ISLE**

6th Annual United Way Walk-a-thon
2nd Annual North Port Sweet Heat BBQ Bash
4th Annual Corn Hole Tournament
Come Walk for Local Charities and Stay for the Bash
Live Music
Beer & Wine Tent
Kids Zone
North Port City Center Green

United Way

Friday March 18th
*BBQ Contestant Set-up

Saturday March 19th
10 am Walk-a-thon Registration

www.uwssc.org

2015-2016 Board of Directors Officers

President: Scott Graves - Herald Tribune Media Group

Vice President: Terri Britton—Florida Power and Light

Treasurer: Kathy Castellano—Stonegate Bank

Secretary: Paula Carney - Navamaze



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

2015-2016 Board of Directors:

Our Special Community Volunteers

Tim Adkins
Publix Supermarkets

John Holic
Mayor of Venice

Kristy Babington
Englewood Bank and Trust

Barbara King
Re/Max Alliance

Dr. James Patterson
Consultant

Kevin Cox
Morgan Stanley

Evan Duke

William Gunnin
North Port Chamber

James Kim
CYD Student/ Pineview School

Kathy Castellano
Stonegate Bank

Alberto Serino
PGT

Tim Smolarick
Venice Gondolier

Dave Pierce

Venice Area Chamber of Commerce

Office: Maryann Terry, Exc. Dir.