United Way of Pueblo County announced the campaign goal and campaign chair for the 2015 community campaign at the 93rd Annual Campaign Kickoff Luncheon and Auction on Wednesday, September 16 at the Pueblo Convention Center. Andrew Lang, a long-time business leader, was announced as this year’s Campaign Chairman. He reported to a crowd of over 325 that United Way was setting a well-considered goal of $1,055,000 to benefit those in need, and encouraged the attendees and the community as a whole to join together and ‘LOVE UNITED.’ Lang also spotlighted the work being done in United Way of Pueblo County’s Mentorship Program to affect the lives of area 6th, 7th, and 8th graders.

The event was sponsored by Wells Fargo Bank. Dominic Gallina, vice president of Wells Fargo Bank in Pueblo also a United Way of Pueblo County Board Member, greeted the crowd and shared Wells Fargo Bank’s long-standing commitment to benefit the communities they serve. Gallina also encouraged attendees to take part in helping this year’s campaign be successful to make an impact.

Attendees were also able to see their dollars in action with the showing of United Way’s 2015 Campaign video (view it at www.pueblounitedway.org). In addition, Colorado State University-Pueblo Foundation Director Todd Kelly served as honorary auctioneer encouraging high bids, while also having some fun.

The event concluded with a twist. At United Way of Pueblo County’s 92nd Annual Meeting and Awards Presentation held in May to wrap up the 2014 Campaign, President/CEO Andrea Aragon and past United Way Board Chair Dave Galli accepted a challenge by United Way Campaign Director Lawrence Kochis to receive a pie in the face for United Way. Working off of the popular ‘ALS Ice Bucket Challenge,’ this version, started by Housing Authority of the City of Pueblo, called “Pie Play for United Way” challenges others to raise funds for United Way of Pueblo County by individuals donating to challenge others to receive a pie in the face. Darrin Smith, Human Resources director at Parkview Medical Center and Aragon’s husband, bought the rights from Lawrence to hit her with the pie. Aragon used the Campaign Kickoff to enact her revenge, nominating Smith and Housing Authority of the City of Pueblo’s Executive Director Ted Ortiviz to receive a pie. She then sold her rights to hit Smith with the pie to Mike Baxter, President/CEO at Parkview Medical Center, and the Parkview Leadership Team. Ortiviz took his pie and also paid to challenge Pueblo City Schools Superintendent Dr. Constance Jones and Pueblo District 70 Superintendent Ed Smith. In a show of incredible community support Superintendent Smith received his pie in the face and Dr. Jones made a generous contribution to the United Way Mentorship Program to avoid being hit.

Campaign Match! Breaking News!

All New and Increased Gifts to United Way of Pueblo County will be Matched – Dollar for Dollar up to $62,500!

Thanks to the incredible generosity of The Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) Partners, The David & Lucile Packard Foundation, Little Caesars Pizza, Temple Hoyne Buell, ENT Federal Credit Union and the El Pomar Foundation all NEW and INCREASED gifts up to $62,500 to the 2015 United Way campaign will be matched dollar for dollar!

The PCAPP Partners, consisting of Bechtel, AECOM and Battelle Memorial Institute contributed an amazing $32,500 to increase and enhance generosity in difficult economic times. The David & Lucile Packard Foundation has contributed $15,000, and the Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation, El Pomar Foundation have responded generously as well, contributing $5,000, along with a $2,000 gift from Little Caesars Pizza and a $3,000 gift from ENT Federal Credit Union.

Double your impact this year and provide hope and help to our community. Spread the word about this opportunity in your campaign communications and share with your co-workers and friends. Our special thanks to our matching gift partners for inspiring philanthropy and giving when our fellow citizens need it most!!
with the pie. In all, $1,700 was raised for the campaign.

**United Way of Pueblo County**

**Board Chair Matt Smith**, owner of Snap Fitness 24/7, concluded the meeting with some final words of inspiration and encouraged attendees to help “give Pueblo a raise” by “living and loving UNITED” in support of United Way of Pueblo County!

United Way also gave a special thank you to the media sponsors that help make it possible to use over 89% of donor dollars to help those in need in the Pueblo community.

United Way’s Campaign Kickoff is held each year to broadcast the annual fundraising goal, announce the year’s campaign chair, and get the community excited for United Way’s annual community giving campaign and upcoming events. Silent and live auctions are also held throughout the luncheon to begin raising funds for the campaign.

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**Announcements & Recognitions**

- A special recognition was given to United Way of Pueblo County Mentorship Program Corporate Champions **El Pomar Foundation** and **Professional Bull Riders, Inc (PBR)** for their outstanding support of the program.

- United Way of Pueblo County Campaign Cabinet Member and 2012 Campaign Chair **Dave Feamster**, owner of Little Caesars Pizza, was recognized as the **Ambassador of the Year** for his tireless support and advocacy for United Way and the Pueblo community.

- **Rick Holmes**, Bechtel and PCAPP (Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant) Project Manager, made a surprise announcement accompanied by Chris Snyder, AECOM, and Reza Karimi, Battelle, that this year the PCAPP Partners would contribute a total of $32,500 towards matching funds for the 2015 Campaign. This new addition brings the total of current matching funds for **NEW or INCREASED gifts up to $62,500** thanks to the generosity of the **David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation, El Pomar Foundation, Ent Federal Credit Union, and Little Caesars Pizza**! The David and Lucile Packard Foundation - $15,000, PCAPP Partners: Bechtel, AECOM & Battelle - $32,500, Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation - $5,000, El Pomar Foundation - $5,000, Ent Federal Credit Union - $3,000, and Little Caesars Pizza - $2,000.

**THANK YOU to all of the donors who made our kickoff auction possible!**

- Andrew Lang
- Angelo’s Pizza Parlor
- Bingo Burger
- Black Hills Energy
- Bonnie Dickerson
- Cooperative Care Center
- CSU–Pueblo Alumni Association
- CSU-Pueblo Athletics
- Dan Centa
- Darrin Smith
- Dave Galli
- Derrick Martinez
- HollyDot Golf Course
- Jack & Paula Quinn
- Jeff & Paula Chostner
- John B. Cordova
- John Batey, Pueblo Urban Renewal Authority
- John Keilbach
- Judy Leonard
- Karen Trujillo
- Little Caesars Pizza
- Looking Glass Photography
- Matt Smith
- Michael Salardino
- Michelle Peulen
- Mister Penguin Tuxedo Rentals & Sales
- Nick Dosen
- Park East Restaurant
- pewag Traction Chain
- Pueblo Courtyard by Marriott
- Pueblo’s Best Carpet Cleaning
- Pure Spa & Wellness
- Ray Sverdfeger
- Rocky Mountain Eye Center
- Rubin Roman
- Security Service Federal Credit Union
- Snap Fitness 24/7
- Ted Ortiviz
- The Pueblo Chieftain
- TR Toppers Inc.
- US Bank
- UTC Aerospace Systems
- Xcel Energy

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2 – United Way of Pueblo County
United Way of Pueblo County – 3

Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities

UNITED WAY MONTH AT PARK EAST RESTAURANT – OCTOBER 2015

October is United Way month at Park East Restaurant. Patrons can enter to win various prizes. The restaurant will donate 10% of profits during one week. Celebrity waiters will be on hand to wait on patrons and help spread the word about the available prizes and giving to United Way.

UNITED WAY OF PUEBLO COUNTY’S MIDDLE SCHOOL MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Mentors are currently being sought to fill 40 slots open at program partner schools- Roncalli STEM School, Heaton Middle School, Pueblo Academy of Arts, and Liberty Point International School. New mentors will meet with students from November/December 2015 until the end of the school year. All mentors must undergo a thorough safety screening process, including a criminal history and child abuse registry check, personal interview, verification of references, and training. Training will take place in early November with interviews being held in the following weeks.

GAS GIVEAWAY

United Way has also joined together with Loaf ‘N Jug to give away $500 gas cards at the end of the campaign season to two lucky winners that entered the drawing by attending a United Way of Pueblo County campaign meeting at their workplace. Art Stawski and Loaf ‘N Jug were thanked for their support and leadership.

2015 United Way of Pueblo Campaign Chair

Andrew Lang

United Way’s 2015 Campaign Chairman is someone who doesn’t just talk the talk, he actually walks the walk. It is evident in all that he does, particularly in his extensive involvement in both the community and with United Way. It is for these reasons and many more that we are very excited that the leader of this year’s campaign fundraising efforts is Andrew Lang, Chief Operating Officer of local business, TR Toppers, Inc. In addition to impressive business and manufacturing experience, Lang is involved in PEDCo and the PEDCo Foundation Board of Directors, and served as the Chairman in 2012. He is active on several advisory boards and committees including the Pueblo Airport Advisory Committee and the Pueblo City Schools Career and Technical Education Task Force. On top of these many activities, Andrew also finds time to serve as a United Way Middle School mentor at Heaton Middle School.

“United Way is really a great organization that is well run and effective. It is important to give back to the community, so if I can help make it better, I’m happy to do it,” stated Andrew about his acceptance of the task. Andrew received a degree in economics and business management from Albion College, and has taken graduate MBA coursework at University of Missouri Kansas City and Wayne State University. He is married to Martina, and the couple have two awesome daughters who attend CSU-Fort Collins.

“Andrew is a true leader in both the business and general Pueblo community,” shared United Way of Pueblo County President/CEO Andrea Aragon. “While he has been a driving force in the very important economic development efforts of our community, he has also made it a priority to be involved as a mentor in our United Way Middle School Mentoring Program. By sharing his impressive advice, patience and compassion with his mentee, he is truly making a difference in many different ways. The time he devotes to this community is inspiring, and we are thrilled he is willing to take on the role of our 2015 Campaign Chair.”

If you happen to run into Andrew, please give him a huge pat on the back for taking on this challenge and serving our community in such an important way. Of course, he will not be alone in his efforts, thanks to the help of our amazing campaign cabinet, who is already working diligently on our community’s behalf.

United Way Campaign Cabinet

Andrew Lang, TR Toppers
Christopher Burke, Black Hills Energy
Dan Centa, Pueblo West Metro District
Dave Aldag, Rocky Mountain Eye Center
Dave Feamster, Chair, Little Caesars Pizza
Dennis Maes
Derrick Martinez, Express Employment Professionals
Jack Quinn
Jane Rawlings, The Pueblo Chieftain
Jeff Chostner, Pueblo County District Attorney
John Cordova, Pueblo City Council
Kevin McCarthy, US Bank
Mark Chorak, RE/MAX
Matt Smith, Snap Fitness 24/7
Michael Salardino, Security Service Investments
Ray Swerdfeger, Swerdfeger Construction
Ron Francis, pewag Traction Chain, Inc.
United Way of Pueblo County provides and administers more than $936,000 in funding to local non-profit organizations and programs.

The United Way Board of Trustees recently approved over $936,000 in funding to the community, which supports over 50 health and human service programs and helps provide more than 136,000 units of service to those in need. Funded areas/programs and amounts include:

$447,125 in Member Agency Allocations (2015-2016)
- American Red Cross
  - Disaster Services, Volunteer Recruitment and Training, and Service to the Armed Services
- Boy Scouts, Rocky Mountain Council
  - Learning for Life and Scouting Programs
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Pueblo
  - Sprague, East Side and Avondale Centers
- Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Pueblo
  - Home Stability Program
- East Side Child Care Center
  - Quality Day Care on a Sliding Fee Scale
- Pueblo Child Advocacy Center
  - Child Abuse Prevention (examinations, investigations and support)
- Pueblo Cooperative Care Center
  - Food Sack Program, Medical Prescriptions, Transportation and Hygiene
- Pueblo Community Health Center
  - Cavitron & Cavitron Dispensing System
- Pueblo Suicide Prevention Center
  - Core Crisis Program (prevention, education and awareness training, crisis hotline, postvention/grief support) and Community Counseling
- Salvation Army Pueblo Corps & Community Center
  - Daily Meal Program, Food Pantry, Warming Shelter and Bridges of Hope
- Southside Children’s Center
  - Quality Day Care on a Sliding Fee Scale
- S.R.D.A.
  - Helping Elders Live Program (HELP)
- YWCA
  - Family Crisis Shelter, Teresa’s Place, Domestic Violence Co-location, and Youth Violence Prevention

  - Flu Shots
  - Diabetes Screenings
  - Christmas Stockings
- Salvation Army Pueblo Corps and Community Center (2014-2015)
  - Christmas Toys for Children – Angel Tree Program
  - Utility Assistance
- United Way Middle School Mentoring Program
  - Mentoring for Area Middle School Students
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA)
  - Free federal and state income tax e-filing for qualifying households

$67,878 in Special Funding (2014-2015/2015-2016)
  - Flu Shots
  - Diabetes Screenings
  - Christmas Stockings
- Salvation Army Pueblo Corps and Community Center (2014-2015)
  - Christmas Toys for Children – Angel Tree Program
  - Utility Assistance
- United Way Middle School Mentoring Program
  - Mentoring for Area Middle School Students
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA)
  - Free federal and state income tax e-filing for qualifying households

$52,000 in Mental Health & Senior Services Grants (2015-2016)
- Friendly Harbor Drop In Center
  - Services and Support to the Mentally Ill Population
- Mental Health of America of Colorado
  - ProBono Counseling and Referral Program
- Pueblo Cooperative Care Center
  - Hygiene Program for Seniors

$32,000 in Community Impact Grants (2015-2016)
- A Caring Pregnancy Center (ACPC)
  - Life Services Program
- Colorado Farm to Table
  - Fresh Grown Produce to Local Agencies

- Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Pueblo
  - Rent Assistance
- Pueblo Cooperative Care Center
  - Homeless Sacks and Diabetes Vouchers
- Posada
  - Emergency Shelter for families with children
- YWCA
  - Homeless Assistance Program – Transportation, Medical and Documentation Costs

United Way of Pueblo County also administered $110,000 in assistance through the Board of Water Works and City of Pueblo Cares Program aiding individuals with their water bill, more than $1,000 through the IBEW/NECA Electrical Repair Program, and over $92,000 through the federal Emergency Food & Shelter Program during the 2014/2015 funding year.

The annual United Way community giving campaign has raised more than $43,000,000 for this community since United Way began operations in 1923. Each year, United Way strives to set and reach goals designed to impact the incredible growing needs in the community.
Community Impact Grants: Addressing Needs that Matter to Our Community!

At United Way, our volunteers look at the needs of our community. As needs change, we want to be responsive and invest your donor dollars as effectively as possible – because results matter! In response to ever-changing needs, the United Way Board of Trustees have developed Community Impact grants, which are designed to address needs not currently funded by United Way. This year, we were able to invest new dollars into two different programs right here in Pueblo County.

A Caring Pregnancy Center – United Way funding will provide program dollars for the Life Services Program, whose aim is to break the cycle of poverty that begins with unplanned teen pregnancies. Over 600 individuals will be given hope and help thanks in part to your contribution!

Colorado Farm to Table – Funds that you donate to United Way will help to plant, grow, harvest and distribute 5,000 lbs. of fresh produce to partner food banks at no cost to feed Pueblo’s hungry. This is the first of these efforts, with dollars invested to ensure capacity for sustainability in years to come. This grant will benefit over 16,600 people with nutritious food in one year alone!

Funding Areas that Matter: United Way Awards Special Mental Health & Senior Grants

In addition to funding new projects via our Community Impact grants, we have seen a need for special funding in the areas of mental health and senior services. This became apparent approximately four years ago when Pueblo lost two very beneficial programs in those areas. As a result, United Way sought applications in an attempt to fill this gap. This year, United Way provided grants to Friendly Harbor Drop In Center, Mental Health of America Colorado’s Pueblo Pro Bono Counseling Program and Pueblo Cooperative Care Center.

Friendly Harbor Drop In Center – Funds will aid the Friendly Harbor Drop In Center to restore hope, dignity and a sense of purpose to over 600 mentally ill individuals, keeping them off the streets, away from harm, as well as providing counseling and support.

Mental Health of America Colorado’s Pueblo Pro Bono Counseling - Thanks to your donation, the Pueblo Pro Bono Counseling program will provide over 70 individuals with intensive one-on-one mental health counseling regardless of their inability to pay. This innovative program boasts the amazingly generous support of mental health professionals who donate their time to serve the ever-increasing need.

Pueblo Cooperative Care - A grant was given to Cooperative Care specifically to address the hygiene needs of senior citizens facing economic strain. Research has shown that customers prefer to patronize shops and businesses that support the local community. Show your current and potential customers that your business believes in our great community, all while receiving advertising incentives by partnering with United Way of Pueblo County.

Research has shown that customers prefer to provide an in-kind gift to be used in our 2016 Campaign Kickoff Auction. As an additional benefit, businesses that support United Way during the blitz are entered to win advertising, are spotlighted for their contributions and promoted to help them thrive. Be sure to look out for additional information and respond by Nov. 17 to take advantage of the great promotional opportunities and join us as a part of this year’s Small Business Blitz! For more information, contact Bianca at (719) 583-4455 or bianca.hicks@co.pueblo.co.us or visit www.pueblounitedway.org/mentor.

More mentors are needed each year. For more information on this amazing program, please contact United Way at (719) 583-4455 or visit our website at www.pueblounitedway.org/mentor.
Results are what helps the United Way of Pueblo County Middle School Mentor program change lives. The program, in its fifth year, boasts over 70 outstanding mentors from the business community engaged at four Pueblo County Middle Schools, including Heaton, Pueblo Academy of Arts, Roncalli STEM and Liberty Point International. Mentors are matched with students and serve as a positive adult role model that helps with problem solving, decision making and organization skills, provides a connection between the world of work and school, and perhaps most importantly, listens with their heart. Mentors spend one hour per week with their student at the school during the lunch hour, and also attend two to three field trips with their mentee throughout the year.

Outcome data is being kept at all schools, measuring grades, behavior and attendance. The impact that has taken place is both measurable and immeasurable. As a part of the partnership we have with each school, we ask that they keep data on grades, attendance and behavior issues, as well as anecdotal stories. **Here are a few examples:**

- For approximately 80% of the student mentees, there has been significant improvement on grades, attendance and behavior.
- School counselors state that all students have shown some improvement in the three areas of measurement. For example: On days that mentors visit their mentees, attendance is almost always 100%. This is impressive because these students tend to have higher school absences than other students.
- After one semester with mentors, all 10 mentees at Pueblo Academy of Arts received academic achievement awards at the end of their 6th grade year! This would not have been possible without the assistance of our capable mentors.
- At Heaton Middle School, where we have just completed three consecutive years, we saw the following results: Sixth graders, who were in their first year in the program averaged 2.4 F’s per grade period; those same students in the seventh grade averaged 1.5 F’s per grade period; those same students in the eighth grade and in their third year of the program students averaged .5 F’s per grade period.
- Liberty Point International reported that their sixth grade first year students in the program averaged 2.2 F’s per grade period. Just one year later, in their second year in the program (now in 7th grade) they averaged 1.0 F’s per grade period.
- Roncalli STEM Academy just completed their first year of the program. Among the 10 students in the program, there were 32 F’s. After just one semester with mentors, they now have 21 F’s. While still not ideal, much was improved.

Outside of the quantitative data, we have countless examples of increased student engagement in school as a whole. School principals and school administrators are extremely pleased with the program, citing the improvement of mentees in all aspects. “The United Way mentors have provided support to the students at Heaton that has been life altering for many of them. The mentors’ dedication, support and commitment to the students has been the reason why they have made gains in both academics and in their personal lives. We are so very thankful to the mentors for the time they give to students and also to be connected with such a wonderful agency that focuses on students in need. We are extremely proud to be partners with United Way,” said Jayme Stangier, Principal, Heaton Middle School.

Students in the program have certainly benefited, we hear time and time again from our mentors how important this experience has been for them. “The time spent with my mentee is so rewarding because I have seen how she has embraced the importance of education, being proud to show me her grades. Encouraging her to do her best and offering support can only make her future better. The field trip opportunities to explore Pueblo have been wonderful experiences, especially getting her out of her comfort zone. I look forward to the coming school year,” shared Vickie Kampa, Pueblo Community College Instructor, 7th grade mentor at Heaton Middle School.
The 13th Annual Pacesetter Olympic Games was held Thursday, July 23 at Lovell Park, sponsored by GCC Rio Grande and Black Hills Energy.

An excited group of companies and agencies came to enjoy a fun evening of food and camaraderie and to compete in backyard picnic games in an effort to take home the coveting traveling trophy. Teams competed in Tug-A-War, Hula Hoop Contest, Water Fill Relay, and Marshmallow Toss Relay.

When the bracket points were tallied, GCC Rio Grande was awarded the championship taking home the traveling trophy for the second year in a row. Black Hills Energy took second place with East Side Child Care Center, the Housing Authority of the City of Pueblo and Legacy Bank tying for third place.

Special thanks to GCC Rio Grande, Black Hills Energy, KPHT 95.5 and Nick Donovan, PepsiCo, Pueblo West Parks and Recreation, Standard Sales / Budweiser, and our volunteers and board members for their generosity!

More great photos from the event are viewable on our Facebook page!

United Way of Pueblo County annually holds the Pacesetter Games in late July to bring companies together that run United Way campaigns to enjoy a fun-filled evening, thank them for their commitment to the community, and set the pace for the upcoming community campaign season.
Thanks to **Loaf 'N Jug**, you could win a $500 gas card just by attending a United Way meeting at your workplace!

Attend a UWPC campaign presentation or meeting at your workplace, complete the entry form and return it by February 19, 2016! Special thanks to Art Stawski & Loaf ’N Jug for continuing to provide this outstanding incentive.

### HOW THE DRAWING WORKS

Complete the entry form and return it to your company’s United Way campaign coordinator, or mail it to United Way of Pueblo County, PO Box 11566, Pueblo, CO 81001 no later than February 19, 2016. Contest winners will be selected in a random drawing to be held on or around Friday, February 26, 2016. Two winners will receive one gas card in the amount of $500.

### ELIGIBILITY

- No pledge or donation is required to enter. Any U.S. citizen who is 18 years or older and attends a United Way campaign meeting, receives a direct mailing, or requests an entry through the mail and who agrees to contest rules is eligible. UW staff, board of trustees and their immediate families are not eligible to enter.
- Only one entry per person is allowed.
- If the prizes are unclaimed within seven business days after the drawing, an alternate winner will be chosen. The prize is nontransferable.
- By submitting an entry, you agree to be bound by contest rules.
- Odds of winning will depend upon number of entries received.

No pledge or donation is required to enter to win. People who attend a United Way campaign meeting at their workplace or those who are contacted through the direct mail campaign are eligible to enter. **Congratulations to Reid and Susan!**

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### Campaign Spotlight

**Pueblo City-County Health Department**

The Pueblo City-County Health Department developed a heartfelt approach to show their appreciation for generous donors in their workplace campaign. Employees who give to United Way of Pueblo County are invited to attend an incredible home cooked lunch. Campaign coordinator Mary Davis and a few of her friends make the whole meal on-site. “Maybe this is why their campaign has gone up 240% since 2009!” remarked UW Campaign Manager Lawrence Kochis. “Mary and her team make sure to find an extra special way to say THANK YOU!”

At the end of the 2014 campaign, the trio cooked two different kinds spaghetti with a couple different sauce types – always thinking healthy! The employees were served their plates with a smile. The delicious meal also included garlic bread, salad, dessert and non-alcoholic sparkling beverage poured from actual wine bottles for some added flair. Great food, conversation and a lot of fun makes it well worth giving at the Health Department!

United Way of Pueblo County greatly appreciates the amazing work our campaign coordinators do to make their workplace campaigns successful! For more great ideas to use in your campaign, see our Campaign Best Practices on page 9.
Are you a UW Coordinator? Need some quick tips to add some fun to the campaign at your workplace? Here are a few simple, effective fundraising strategies that local businesses are doing:

- Create a snack cart to sell treats, nachos, candy, popcorn, or burritos at breaks for a low cost donation as a special event for United Way! – AT&T

**TAKE THE PIE CHALLENGE!**

Ever dreamed of putting a pie in the boss’s face? How about your “favorite” co-worker? Take the pie challenge and benefit United Way while doing it! In 2014, the Pueblo Housing Authority added a great twist to their campaign, creating a “Pie Play for United Way” challenge, where co-workers challenged each other to a pie in the face or pay, in the spirit of the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge. Most bravely took the pie in the face AND gave a donation to United Way. How about challenge your top management and have a contest... the manager that gets the most donations from employee gets the pie. There’s so many ways to tweak it, adapt it and have fun with it in your business! You can raise loads of money too! Over $1,700 was raised at our kick-off alone!

**OTHER IDEAS:**

- Teams of employees solicit donations to arrange gift baskets or grab bags to be auctioned to benefit UWPC!
- Organize an employee basketball or golf tournament with entry fees benefitting United Way. Benefits a great cause, and is a great team-building activity
- Hold drawings for participation prizes
- Give employees a chance to show off their rides by holding a company car show with entry fees benefitting United Way! – UTC Aerospace Systems
- Auction a prime reserved parking spot for a lucky bidder!
- Offer employees food at United Way presentation meetings
- Hold a casual day for United Way where employees pay a small fee to dress down on a Friday or wear their favorite sports team’s apparel
- Ice cream socials or pizza parties
- Chili cook-offs with entry fees to compete and taste benefit United Way
- Hold your ‘fun’draiser on a payday to maximize participation
- Organize a committee to brainstorm ideas that work well in your workplace culture
- Always say ‘THANK YOU’ for considering a gift to United Way! Celebrate your success and recognize employees who participated.
- And MUCH MORE!!! Be creative and think outside the box!

As United Way staff, we are always here to make the campaign process as simple and painless as possible. We are here to support and compliment your efforts by providing collateral material, United Way and agency presentations, and creative strategies. Please feel free to contact us at 719-583-4455 and check out the campaign toolkit at www.pueblounitedway.org.

Want to share something unique that you do to help make your United Way campaign a success? Email Andrea at aragona@co.pueblo.co.us and we’ll spotlight your work.
Mark Your Calendar!

Thursday, March 10, 2016

11th Annual Flavor of Pueblo Food & Wine Show

Thursday, March 10, 2016
5:00 to 7:30 p.m.
Pueblo Convention Center

Mark your calendar to join us at Pueblo’s premier food & wine event—the 11th Annual Flavor of Pueblo Food & Wine Show! A delectable spread of food samples, wine and beer from local restaurants and vendors will be yours to savor for just one low ticket cost with all proceeds benefiting United Way funded programs right here in our community!

Interested being a Flavor of Pueblo vendor? Contact Bianca at 719-583-4455 /bianca.hicks@co.pueblo.co.us

UW Board List

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Chair
Snap Fitness 24/7

DAVE GALLI
Past Chair

BONNIE DICKERSON
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Vestas

MICHELLE PEULEN
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Paula Chostner,
Pueblo City Schools

Dominic Gallina,
Wells Fargo Bank

Doug Hayes,
UTC Aerospace Systems, Inc.

Rick Holmes,
Bechtel

Bret Jones,
Black Hills Energy

John Keilbach,
Altman, Keilbach, Lytle, Parlapiano & Ware, PC

Scott Lee,
Trane Company

Tracy Martinez,
US Bank

Ted Ortiviz,
Pueblo Housing Authority

Ruben Roman,
Xcel Energy Comanche

Rick Scholtes,
Target Distribution Center

Karen Trujillo,
RE/MAX Pueblo West
Pueblo Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program Gears Up for 2016 Tax Season

The numbers are in...and they’re INCREDIBLE!

The Pueblo VITA Program is an IRS program that provides FREE tax preparation and filing for households with a total household income of $52,000 or less. For the 2015 tax season, services were provided at six tax sites as well as on two special Saturday tax days at the Greenhorn Valley and Rawlings Libraries.

Thanks to the help of highly trained volunteers from February 2 - April 15, 2015, the Pueblo VITA Coalition filed 1,123 returns, a staggering $1,397,051 was brought back into the Pueblo community through refunds, tax credits (Earned Income Tax credits brought in $487,300 and the Child Care Credit brought in $229,372 alone) and savings of tax preparation fees. We estimate that an average tax preparation fee would be $100 per filing, resulting in over $112,300 in tax preparation savings.

In addition to providing free tax preparation, VITA works to ensure everyone in the community receives all of the tax credits and deductions for which they are eligible. The VITA Program represents just one example of how United Way seeks to develop strategies and partnerships that improve the financial stability of our citizens to help move people towards greater economic self-sufficiency. This program is sponsored in part by the City of Pueblo and the County of Pueblo.

Thank you to the amazing volunteers and partners who help make all of this happen! If you are interested in learning more or in volunteering for the 2016 Tax Season, visit www.pueblounitedway.org/vita or contact Judith Boudreaux, program coordinator at (719) 296-8768.
JOIN HANDS.
OPEN YOUR HEART.
LEND YOUR MUSCLE.
FIND YOUR VOICE.
GIVE 10%. GIVE 100%.
GIVE 110%
GIVE AN HOUR. GIVE A SATURDAY.
THINK OF WE BEFORE ME.
REACH OUT A HAND TO ONE AND
INFLUENCE
THE CONDITION OF ALL.

Visit our website: www.pueblounitedway.org
Find us on Facebook: unitedwayofpueblocounty