

Community Connection

United
Way



Green Mountain
United Way

Mobilizing communities to create changes in local conditions that will improve lives.

February 2011

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The Annual Campaign

Our Campaign Chairs, Don George and Marty Feltus, and volunteers at all the businesses have done a great job in moving our fundraising campaign forward, and continue to create momentum so we can reach that goal of \$655,000. To date, we have received pledges and donations amounting to **\$408,248**. We still have a ways to go, but there are several businesses that have not yet reported the results of their individual campaigns. We are confident that we will all succeed.

With everyone's help we will be able to assist our people to become financially stable, live healthier lives and provide for parents and caregivers the tools needed for their children to be ready for school.

If you have not yet participated in your business' campaign, or wish to make an individual donation, please contact us at 802-229-9532, or go to our website at www.gmunityway.org and click on the green Donate button. Everyone contributing in even just a small way will collectively make a big impact.

GMUW & Local Partnership Awarded \$150,000 FINRA Grant

Green Mountain United Way has been awarded \$150,000 from the FINRA Foundation, in partnership with Central Vermont Community Action Council (CVCAC), GreenPath Debt Solutions, Invest EAP, Lamoille Valley Chamber of Commerce, Northeast Kingdom Community Action (NEKCA) and United Way of Lamoille County, to provide financial education services in the counties of Washington, Lamoille, Orange, Caledonia, Orleans and Essex. This collaborative project will provide an opportunity to significantly expand existing financial programming in local communities and improve the wellbeing and economic self-sufficiency of Vermonters in the six-county region.

"During this time of economic adversity we are pleased to have the opportunity to help lower income Vermonters navigate and understand our financial system," said Joe Hicks, Tangible Assets Coordinator with CVCAC. Many families in communities being served by this project are struggling to make ends meet, relying on credit cards to cover daily living expenses. Low-income respondents to CVCAC's community assessment indicated that 30 percent of them use credit to buy food, 36 percent for utilities, and 20 percent for medication. In addition, 43 percent described their credit as "below average" or "poor," while 21 percent had no knowledge of their credit status.

The two-year project is being coordinated by Green Mountain United Way. Invest EAP, Vermont's largest employee assistance program, will provide on-site services at businesses to

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Making a Difference in the Early Years

Green Mountain United Way is working with regional Building Bright Futures Councils and early childhood groups to provide a network of support for families with young children in our local communities. This network of parents, caregivers, providers, educators, government and elected officials, businesses, and community members is essential in helping children build a foundation to lead healthy, fulfilling lives.

What is Building Bright Futures (BBF)? BBF is Vermont's statewide collaboration of early childhood services and advocates including parent-child centers, Head Start programs, educators, childcare providers, parents, caregivers, and community and state programs. Each regional council coordinates local services to ensure that all families have access to high quality early childhood programs and support during these important early years. Councils identify local needs and build collaborative initiatives and programs to address these needs.

Currently in Central VT, GMUW is partnering with BBF members - BBF Coordinator Jill Murphy, Kids Are Priority One, the Family Center of Washington County and the Teen Parent Program/Washington County Youth Service Bureau - to engage local businesses by encouraging them to incorporate family-friendly policies and share their innovative ideas of how they support families.

GMUW continues to partner with the BBF councils in Central VT and the Northeast Kingdom to distribute Born Learning materials, providing parents and caregivers with easy every day strategies to help support their parenting as they create a nurturing learning environment for their children. The Born Learning "Your Child at" handout is a helpful resource for parents, as it is a simple two-page document that provides information on the ten stages of development from birth to age five. This handout is available at the following link on GMUW's website: <http://www.gmunityedway.org/eli.shtml>. The Born Learning Trail, a portable educational activity trail with ten self-standing signs, offers tips and activities for families and young children to engage in together. Thank you to the Orleans/No. Essex and Central VT BBF Councils for the generous support to purchase these trails for communities! Please contact GMUW or your

Building Bright Futures Council if you would like to borrow the trail for an event in your area.

GMUW strives to continue making a difference for children in the early years through community-driven initiatives and by supporting the following local programs:

Clara Martin Center - Assisting parents with young children who have behavioral or development needs through ongoing parent support groups

Four Seasons of Early Learning: Providing early education and childcare summer services for families in Orleans and Caledonia counties

Good Beginnings of Central VT: Providing a free home visitation program for new families in Central VT

Northeast Kingdom Community Action: Providing parents in Orleans/Northern Essex with parenting strategies to support social, emotional and early language and literacy development of children

Prevent Child Abuse VT: Providing trainings for parents and caregivers to help encourage learning and foster the social and emotional development of children

Thank you to all of our early childhood partners for your dedication to the families in our communities. It is through your work and partnership that our communities LIVE UNITED.

"Moving Through Winter"

With sponsorship from BlueCross BlueShield of Vermont, the Central Vermont Physical Activity Coalition, of which GMUW is a member, is holding an eight-week "Moving Through Winter" series. These free family-friendly events will encourage people to stay active during the cold months and feature ice skating, a Full Moon Snowshoe, a Family Fun Gym Night, sledding and other fun local opportunities. Free equipment use, tips from winter enthusiasts and refreshments will be available.

"The key is to have a sampling of beginner events where fun is the focus," says Bill Merryless from Community Connections and a coalition member.

For more information about the Coalition or this series of events, contact Barbara Christie-Garvin at GMUW at 229-9532 or by e-mail at bcbgarvin@gmunityedway.org.

Coming Soon - 5th Annual Kaleidoscope of Talent

For the fifth year, Green Mountain United Way will be holding its very popular Kaleidoscope of Talent show on Saturday, March 5, 2011 at the Spaulding High School Auditorium starting at 7 p.m.

Local performers of all ages are welcome to audition. **Auditions are taking place on February 12th at Spaulding High School from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** Complete your Performer Application at www.gmunitedway.org (click on the Kaleidoscope link on our homepage), submit as instructed and schedule your audition time.

Those of you who have attended the show in previous years know how much fun the evening can be. There are singers, comedians, dancers and instrumentalists. You'll be pleasantly surprised at the amount of talent there is in our area.

So, mark your calendars now and don't miss the show of the year on March 5, 2011.

Major sponsors include Gardner Insurance Services, Inc., BlueCross BlueShield of Vermont, Northfield Savings Bank and Black River Design Architects.

Thankful Thursdays!!

Juniper's Restaurant at The Wildflower Inn in Lyndonville has graciously agreed to host one of their Thankful Thursday events for the benefit of Green Mountain United Way.

As their commitment to the local community, the owners of Juniper's provide a wonderful casual dining experience in one of the most beautiful places in the Northeast Kingdom where spectacular views abound. Non-profit organizations benefit by receiving 15% of an evening's dinner sales.

GMUW is on their schedule for February 3rd and we are also planning to hold a silent auction during the evening. Dinner is served between 5:00 and 8:30 p.m. Reservations are highly encouraged, so call 802-626-8310. Juniper's is located at 2059 Darling Hill Rd. just outside of Lyndonville off the East Burke Rd. Come and help us make this a very successful event.

The Planned Giving Corner

Why Invest?

With the stock market as crazy as it has been since 2008 and savings interest rates at an all-time low, should you continue to invest those hard earned dollars?

Of course you should. It has been proven many times over decades that a long-term investment plan pays off in the end. But, what to invest for?

- For retirement
- To become financially independent
- For your family's well being
- To leave a legacy, which can include your favorite charity that is counting on you and others to keep giving even after you've passed away.

(Green Mountain United Way does not provide legal advice, but recommends that you consult your attorney, tax accountant or estate planner to find your best estate-planning avenue.)

(FINRA Grant - Cont'd from Page 1)

address the needs of employees on a range of personal and worksite issues, including financial problems. CVCAC, GreenPath Debt Solutions (formerly Consumer Credit Counseling Services), and NEKCA will offer financial coaching through workshops and counseling at businesses as well as in the community. United Way of Lamoille County and the Lamoille County Chamber of Commerce will play an active role with outreach and coordination of services in Lamoille County.

The impact that this grant will have in local communities is significant, helping people to improve financial planning and management skills, repair and build credit, and develop assets and savings to avoid a financial crisis. In addition, it will expand the reach, sustainability, and awareness of financial education programming in communities, while developing a collaboration of organizations that have proven to be successful in their work to help Vermonters reach economic self-sufficiency.

For more information, call Molly Gleason at 802-229-9532.



Green Mountain
United Way

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Montpelier, VT 05602-9163

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Dates To Remember

- Feb. 3, 2011:** Thankful Thursday event at Juniper's Restaurant, Lyndonville, VT for benefit of GMUW. (See page 3 of this newsletter for more information.)
- Feb. 12, 2011:** Auditions for 5th Annual Kaleidoscope of Talent - 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at Spaulding High School Auditorium. Complete your application at www.gmunityedway.org and call 802-229-9532 to get on the schedule.
- Feb. 21, 2011:** Presidents' Day - All GMUW offices will be closed.
- March 5, 2011:** 5th Annual Kaleidoscope of Talent - 7 p.m. at Spaulding High School Auditorium.
- May 14, 2011:** Annual "Stamp Out Hunger" National Association of Letter Carriers' Food Drive for local food shelves. Contact your post office to see if they are participating.

5th Annual Kaleidoscope of Talent

Benefit:
Green Mountain United Way

AUDITIONS
9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. - February 12, 2011

Spaulding High School Auditorium

Go to www.gmunityedway.org
click on the Kaleidoscope link and
complete the Performer Application
Call 802-229-9532
to schedule your audition time

SHOW
7 p.m. - March 5, 2011
Spaulding High School Auditorium

Tickets available at GMUW
Berlin office at 229-9532 and at the door

CNB/GMUW Adult Financial Literacy Series

In Orleans County

- Feb. 7 - Money Management &
Internet Banking
Feb. 14 - Borrowing/Mortgages; Credit
Scores & Credit Reports
Feb. 21 - Estate Planning & Investing
Feb. 28 - Gaining & Sustaining Assets,
Insurance & Identity Theft

Time: 6 - 8 p.m.
Location: Community National Bank
Community Room at their
Derby Main Office

For planning purposes,
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