

MAKING A DIFFERENCE  
IN CHARLOTTE  
ONE NONPROFIT  
AT A TIME



June 29, 2012

### **Fundraising Campaign Hits \$115,000**

Thanks to your efforts, our Community Matters fundraising campaign has reached the \$115,000 mark. That's great news highlighting four important points -- (1) Our member companies and their employees have been significantly touched by the work of United Family Services and continue to seek ways to support our first charity partner. (2) With this in mind, many of our member companies have not stopped their fundraising activities with the end of the official six-week campaign, but are continuing to raise money and schedule volunteer days well into the summer and early fall. (3) We've begun hearing from our business partners and vendors, who are stepping up to the plate to support our efforts. We recently received one such contribution for \$10,000. (4) Our member companies themselves are making their corporate donations to the campaign -- either as individual contributions and as employee matches.

Together, these factors are impacting our fundraising totals and enabling us to make an even bigger contribution to UFS' fight against domestic violence. Please continue sending your donations to Community Matters by mailing a check to Gwyn Fuller, Community Matters, 4th Floor, 3600 Arco Corporate Drive, Charlotte, NC 28273 (the preferred payment method), or through our two websites: the organization website at <http://www.communitymatterscharlotte.org> or the dodgeball website at <http://www.communitymatterscharlotte.myevent.com>.

### **Save the Date -- Campaign Happy Hour**

Scheduled for 5pm, Thursday, August 9th, at Taco Mac at Southpark (Piedmont Row). Current plans are to have a private room, with refreshments handled by attendees. Further details to be announced soon.

### **Local Fundraising Campaigns**

Keep those stories about your company fundraising efforts coming. They are a great source of ideas for others and give us a chance to recognize you for what you're doing. (Send your stories and photos to [kedar.bryan@arrowpointcap.com](mailto:kedar.bryan@arrowpointcap.com).) Recent efforts include the following.



#### **BB&T Insurance Days of Service**

BB&T Insurance Services recently organized back-to-back days of service at the UFS Shelter for Battered Women. Volunteers thoroughly scrubbed the kitchen (which gets an amazing amount of use), repaired appliances and helped with general cleaning. The next day, BB&T hosted a cook-out for shelter clients.

#### Home-Cooked Meals from Great American

Great American Professional Risk Insurance Services is preparing home-cooked meals for UFS clients at the Shelter for Battered Women. Great American has also donated items from the shelter's "Wish List" to support its operations. Account Executive Ashley Hofer (in blue) is pictured here with members of the shelter team.



#### Arrowpoint Employees Present Quilts

Patti Faber and Cheryl Kitchen of Arrowpoint Capital were attending a "Lunch & Learn" session where they heard UFS Board Chairman John Tighe talk about the work of the Children's Advocacy Center - the Tree House - that provides services and counseling to child abuse victims and their families. So they decided to get involved. Active quilters, they spread the word through their network of friends and family in North and South Carolina. The result -- at the end of June, Patti and Cheryl will deliver more than 50 hand-made quilts to the Tree House.

#### UFS Presentation at AnWINS

On June 13, Karen Parker Thompson, Chief Advancement Officer for United Family Services, presented an overview of UFS goals and programs at AnWINS' Charlotte office. About 50 employees attended, along with guests from Wells Fargo Insurance, Lockton and Snyder's-Lance. Introduced by Tom Lott (right), Karen described how essential the new larger Shelter for Battered Women is for the Charlotte community. She also took questions from attendees about the signs of domestic violence and tips on what can be done to help those in need or are showing signs of being in danger.



#### Support Dan Pliszka

As previously announced, Dan Pliszka, Risk Manager for the City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County and Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools, is walking 120 miles for Community Matters. He's up to 104 miles and still trekking. "Committing to walk 4 miles a day, 7 days per week turns out to be quite the commitment and challenge," said Dan. If you'd like to sponsor Dan or contribute to his walk (and get him off the streets), click on [www.communitymatterscharlotte.myevent.com](http://www.communitymatterscharlotte.myevent.com), go to "Donate to Participant" and enter Dan's name. He's not going to stop at the 120-mile mark -- he plans to keep walking until he reaches his \$4,000 goal. Go Dan!!

#### Highlight Your Community Efforts

Remember, our goal is to highlight all the charitable efforts of our Community Matters companies -- not just those related to this year's fundraising campaign or United Family Services. So please share your stories and pictures so we can showcase them on the Community Matters website and in our newsletter. (Email [kedar.bryan@arrowpointcap.com](mailto:kedar.bryan@arrowpointcap.com).)

#### Shelter Update

This summer, United Family Services staff is beginning to offer "hard hat" tours of their new Clyde and Ethel Dickson Domestic Violence Shelter for Women and Children. The new 80-bed facility is taking shape and it is exciting to watch as UFS moves closer to the reality of serving clients here this December. For additional information, please reference [www.charlottedvshelter.org](http://www.charlottedvshelter.org).

### **Part of UFS Statement in Response to Findings by the Jury in the Jerry Sandusky Child Sexual Abuse Case**

United Family Services is grateful that the jury in the Jerry Sandusky Child Sexual Abuse case has returned with a verdict that holds the former Penn State football coach accountable for the sexual and emotional exploitation of multiple child victims.

The Sandusky case lays bare the grim reality of child sexual abuse. An estimated one in four girls, and one in six boys, will be sexually abused by their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Ninety percent of victims know their offenders, often times quite well but will remain silent, never disclosing their abuse. The causes for that silence are multiple and complex – the threat of future physical abuse, fear that others will dismiss or judge them, and fear disclosure will cause them to lose the love and affection of other family members may all play a role. Children who do have the courage to tell a trusted adult are too often met with disbelief or an unwillingness to act.

We should not underestimate how difficult and how vitally important it is to disclose abuse – even abuse that occurred in the distant past. Absent intervention, the trauma associated with child sexual abuse leaves long-lasting scars. Victims are more likely to develop anxiety, phobias or other major psychiatric disorders; engage in self-harming or risky behaviors, including cutting, anorexia or bulimia, or attempted suicide; and become dependent upon drugs or alcohol.

“It is our job as adults to protect the children around us, and we are mandated by North Carolina law to report suspected abuse,” said Amanda Wilson, Chief Strategy Officer with United Family Services.

In disclosing the abuse, victims take the first step toward breaking the cycle. Thankfully, this community stands prepared to support them on that journey. If the victim is still a minor, United Family Services' Tree House Children's Advocacy Center in Union County works in partnership with other community partners to offer a comprehensive, community- based response. The Tree House conducts a forensic interview with the child, and a medical evaluation in an appropriate, non-threatening setting. The Tree House then coordinates the subsequent crisis intervention, advocacy, counseling, and court support services.