



United Way
of Bedford County

Community Matters

January 2010

Volume 4, Number 3

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United Way Spooktacular 5K

The 2nd annual United Way Spooktacular 5K Run/Walk was held in conjunction with the Child Safety Fun Fair on October 31. There were 90 registered participants starting and ending at H.V. Griffin Park. Registered participants received an event t-shirt and a goody bag during registration.



The first runner crossed the finish line with 18:16, with all others quickly following. Heritage Medical Center, Shelbyville Times-Gazette, Cricket Communications, Duck River Electric, and Elaborate Images were the main sponsors for the event. A

very special thanks to the many additional sponsors and volunteers who made the day successful and fun!

Please mark your calendar for **Saturday, October 30, 2010!**

This is the tentative date set for the 2010 United Way Spooktacular 5K. We look forward to seeing you then!



Natalie Townes gets into the "spirit" of the day

Child Safety Fun Fair



United Way provided Child ID Kits to over 300 children ages 2-15. Representatives from the Shelbyville Police Department and the Bedford Co. Sheriff's office assisted in fingerprinting the children. There was a variety of activities including face painting, a hand washing station, balloons and balloon animals, piñata games, and carnival games.

The 4th annual United Way of Bedford County Child Safety Fun Fair was held on October 31 at H.V. Griffin Park. Public safety representatives, school youth groups, and health and human service agencies provided activities for the children attending the day. Vanderbilt Life Flight also made a special trip to the fair.



Thanks to ALL who were instrumental in making the day a huge success!

**UNITED WAY OF
BEDFORD COUNTY
2009/2010
PARTNER AGENCIES**

Adult Basic Education
Alzheimer's Association
American Red Cross
Bedford County 4-H
Bedford Co. Rescue Squad
Boy Scouts of America-
Middle TN Council
Caregiver Relief Program
Center for Family Development
Child Development Center
Community Clinic of
Shelbyville & Bedford Co.
Contact Life Line
Epilepsy Foundation of Middle
TN
Great Strides Therapeutic
Riding Program
Haven of Hope
Humane Association
Senior Citizens Center
TN Poison Control Center
Tony Rice Center

Child Seat Safety Checks



Child Seat Safety Checks were conducted by THP officers at the Wal-Mart Supercenter parking lot in Shelbyville on November 7. Medifacts child seat kits, sponsored by Shepenco, were distributed when the child's car seat was inspected by a THP officer.

A special thanks to Cascade Interact Club and Shepenco for assisting with activities for the day.

Wonder Trail Ribbon Cutting



A ribbon cutting was held on November 7 at H.V. Griffin Park for the newly installed Wonder Trail. The trail was installed on September 10 by Atmos Energy during the inaugural Day of Caring. Children from Eakin Elementary and Bedford Co. Pre-K, as well as sponsor representatives attended the ribbon cutting.

The trail is designed to help parents and caregivers support early education for young children. It is a fun, easy way for parents, grandparents and caregivers to use outings to build learning into everyday experiences. The trail consists of a series of signs designed to help adults interact with children to boost language and literacy development and to help caregivers understand how to best support early learning in outdoor everyday moments.

The Born Learning Trail promotes fun and games – important components of early childhood learning. Research tells us children are literally ‘born learning.’ That means five years of education take place before they ever enter kindergarten. What happens in a child's early years matters – for success in life and for school readiness.



Shelbyville Breakfast Rotary, Shelbyville Lumber, Shelbyville Parks & Recreation and United Way of Bedford County sponsored the trail.

Use GoodSearch to Benefit United Way

GoodSearch.com is a search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. You use it just as you would any search engine, and it's powered by Yahoo! Think of what could be earned if we just spread the word?



Just go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter “United Way of Bedford County” as the charity you want to support.

Top Ten Reasons to Give to United Way

10. Your donation to United Way is Tax Deductible.
9. Your donation multiplies community impact combining your gift with others.
8. With a single donation to United Way, you can help numerous people, agencies and programs in your community.
7. The Kids are watching! Teaching children about giving creates community awareness, social responsibility and how to be a good neighbor.
6. It won't break the bank! You would be amazed at how giving up a soda or candy bar a week can really make a difference in someone's life.
5. The money you donate to United Way of Bedford County support LOCAL programs and agencies.
4. A donation to United Way can be customized to target partner agency or population segment you choose.
3. It's good for you! Giving has health benefits. So don't give 'til it hurts...give 'til it feels good!
2. Your money is Safe! Your money is being spent wisely through accountability.
1. Strength in numbers! The strength of our community depends on the strength of your United Way...The strength of United Way depends on YOU!

Reflections on 2009...from the Director

As I think about 2009, I think about the accomplishments this LOCAL United Way has made over the past year. Eighteen partner agencies continue to receive necessary funds to provide so many valuable community services due to donor loyalty and support. For this I say "THANK YOU". This was also the year of partnerships, the community coming together for the greater good of Bedford County. This year alone, United Way of Bedford County initiated four new programs and activities that will directly benefit the citizens of this community.

With the help of Shelbyville Fire Dept. and Shelbyville Parks and Recreation, the first "Water Safety Weekend" was held in memory of Matthew Woods in June. Over 75 people attended the event at the Recreation Center to learn more about the dangers of water and the precautions that can be taken to keep children safe.

In September during the inaugural Day of Caring, twenty volunteers spread out all over Bedford County to assist the Child Development Center, Caregiver Relief, Family Support, Haven of Hope, and Senior Citizens Center with much needed projects. The volunteers represented Bedford Co. EMS, First Community Bank, Jostens, and Next Step Home.

A Wonder Trail was installed in September at H.V. Griffin Park with the support of Shelbyville Breakfast Rotary, Shelbyville Lumber, Shelbyville Parks and Recreation, and Atmos Energy. The trail consists of a series of signs designed to help adults interact with children to boost language and literacy development and to help caregivers understand how to best support early learning in outdoor everyday moments.

Non-profit networking was also organized in April to bring non-profits, churches, and other program services together. All are encouraged to learn about services that can be utilized for their clients. Meetings are held on a quarterly basis.

Partnerships are essential to the success of a community. We are happy to be at the forefront of that effort to build a stronger community by working together. Thank you for making 2009 a successful year. United Way of Bedford County looks forward to continuing its community services and involvement in 2010!

Bedford County Ornament Fundraiser

United Way of Bedford County held its 4th annual ornament fundraiser in December. This year's ornament depicted the Argie Cooper Public Library. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of this year's ornament was donated to Argie Cooper Library. Some ornaments from current and past years are still available and can be purchased through the United Way office.

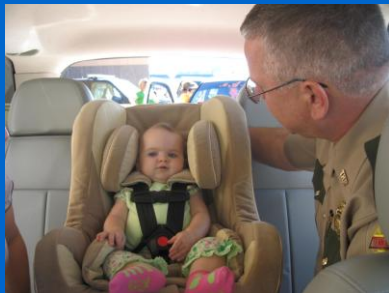


A different Bedford County historical site will be represented on an ornament every year. A list has been drafted for ornaments for 17 years.

A special thanks to the local merchants who volunteered to sell the 24-karat gold plated commemorative ornament: Argie Cooper Public Library, Antiques, Art & Collectibles Mall, Colleen's Cottage, Pinnacle Financial, and Register of Deeds.

What Matters to You?

Safety



Security

Home



Family

The United Way of Bedford County is doing things that matter to YOUR community.

Contact Us

United Way of Bedford County
P.O. Box 1438
101 Elm Street, 2nd Floor
Shelbyville, TN 37162
(931) 684-6685
(931) 684-6616 fax
unitedwaybedford@bellsouth.net
<http://www.unitedwaybedford.org>

Connect with Us on Facebook



United Way of Bedford County has created a fan page on Facebook. Check it out to receive information on upcoming events and view pictures from United Way of Bedford County programs and events.

Agency & Community Happenings

National Poison Prevention Week March 14-20



National Poison Prevention Week is March 14-20. This is a time when communities can stress the importance of poison prevention.

Free poison prevention literature is available from Tennessee Poison Center. If you suspect a poisoning call 1-800-222-1222.

Last year, 701 Bedford County residents called the Poison Help hotline.

Center for Family Development Dancing with the Center Planned for March



The Center for Family Development will be having a "Dancing with the Center" fundraiser in March. The official date and time has not been determined.

Please contact the Center for Family Development for additional information at 684-4676.

Caregiver Relief Pancake Supper March 25

The Caregiver Relief pancake supper fundraiser will be held March 25 from 5 – 7 pm at First United Methodist Church on the square. Tickets can be purchased ahead of time or at the door.

For additional information contact Joyce Adams at 685-9039.

Shelbyville Times-Gazette Insert

The Shelbyville Times-Gazette will have a special United Way of Bedford County insert on Thursday, January 14. Please make sure to review this section. It will contain partner agency information, United Way projects, and additional information that might interest you about your LOCAL United Way.

