
JANUARY 2020

LIVE UNITED



Shelby County United Way

NEWSLETTER



**FROM THE
DESK OF
PRESIDENT,
SCOTT BARR**



Happy New Year! I hope you and your family had a blessed holiday season and are energized to start the New Year. On behalf of the Shelby County United Way board and staff, thank you for your ongoing support. We anticipate the fall campaign revenues to reach \$1,345,000. This allows for the funding of many community based organizations and smaller grants through our Special Projects, POWER, and Student United Way grant application process. You are changing lives every day, every hour, and every minute in Shelby County.

In December, Suzanne Cline, Director of the Shelby County Libraries, and I had the opportunity to attend a Dolly Parton Imagination Library workshop followed by a reception at the Governor's Mansion. Did you know that over 2,400 children under the age of 5 in Shelby County are receiving a brand new book every month up to their 5th birthday. We have 69% of all children in Shelby County under 5 enrolled, leading the State of Ohio. This would not be possible without all the donors supporting the program and our friends at Wilson Health that ensures every child born is enrolled. In addition, I am excited about 2020 and a new innovative program we will be starting in the fall that I will be sharing about in a future newsletter. Thanks again for your support.

PARTNER AGENCY SPOTLIGHT SHELBY COUNTY SENIOR CENTER



The Senior Center of Sidney-Shelby County has been a part of the community since 1997. What started out with less than a hundred members has grown to a membership of close to 1000! It is a non-profit organization that services those individuals that are 50 or better with a variety of activities and programming. Their focus is Health, Education, Recreation & Socialization. Whether it be the Fitness Room with an Athletic Trainer, a variety of exercise classes, health luncheons, dances, card games, shuffleboard or bingo just to name a few; the staff strive each day to make the Center a warm, welcoming and helpful place that people want to enjoy.



In 2019 the Center had staffing changes with a new Executive Director, Rachel Hale, stepping in and the Administrative Assistant/Program Coordinator role was filled by Cindy Lambert. These changes were due to the retirement of long time Director, Eileen Wiseman and Assistant, Darla Wilges.



Continuing the atmosphere of "change", new programming has been added that includes a Tai Chi class, Book Club and Mah Jong Tiles. The building itself is undergoing a bit of a face lift lately with some new carpet, coat racks and overall decluttering and rearranging for a fresh look.

Membership fees are kept low so that it is affordable for people. If you are a Shelby County resident the dues are \$30.00 per year (that's only \$2.50 a month!). If you live in another county you can still join at a fee of \$35.00 per year. One of the goals for Rachel & Cindy is to have the Center go from being "the best kept secret in town" to being "a household name"!

If you are 50 or better, stop down and check out the Center, we offer two free visits before you join!

DOLLY PARTON IMAGINATION LIBRARY

114,834 Books mailed since March 2015

2,430 Kids ages 0-5 subscribed in Shelby County

69.43% of eligible kids enrolled





Shelby County United Way started the school year with new students in Student United Way. Students represent every high school in Shelby County, and will learn about social issues impacting our communities including food insecurities, medical needs, drug rehabilitation and resistance, domestic violence, services for victims and youth issues. Students will have the opportunity to meet with local elected officials, law enforcement leaders, and tour United Way partner agencies, as well as, opportunities to exhibit leadership skills and increase their civic engagement.

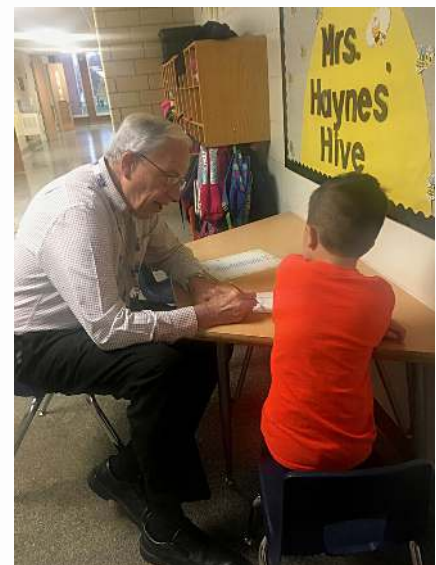
The 2019-2020 Student United Way members include Jacob Robinson and Derek Wolters from Anna Local Schools; Madison Wendel and Elliot Goubeaux from Botkins Local School; Laurel Chalfant and Emma Abbot from Christian Academy; Aaron Brautigam and Alex Henman from Fairlawn Local Schools; Corynn Heitkamp and Marissa Meiring from Fort Loramie Local Schools; Tyler Kies and Jon Steiner from Houston Local Schools; Rachel Sailor and Austin Allenbaugh from Jackson Center Local Schools; Evie Olding and Mikey Rossman from Lehman Catholic High School; Jacob Goubeaux and Jessica York from Russia Local School; and not pictured Jaden Humphrey and Hailey New from Sidney City Schools.



Our women's initiative group, POWER, had a very impactful 2019 fulfilling their mission to continue to unite in service and advocate for programs and initiatives that benefit children and families in Shelby County.

POWER-ful Impact in 2019...

- Allocated and distributed \$25,000 in POWER-ful Grants to 16 different organizations benefiting children in Shelby County
- Placed 51 community volunteers for Kindergarten Tutoring at Emerson and Longfellow providing one-on-one interactions with professional adults making an impact one child at a time
- Provided coats to Shelby County children who were without a coat for the winter season
- Repainted the POWER Born Learning Trail in Tawawa Park
- Participated in various volunteer opportunities including the SC United Way Day of Action painting Whittier classrooms for Pre-school
- Offered "POWER-ful You" programs to members/guests of POWER
- Successful POWER signature event, POWER of the Purse Champagne Luncheon and Fashion Show. Mark your calendars for April 18th 2020!



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES...

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Shelby & Darke County- Have youth waiting to be matched with a mentor (492-7611)

Shelby County CASA/GAL is looking for volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children (498-7447)

Compassionate Care of Shelby County needs trained medical providers willing to volunteer and see patients (492-9400)

FISH of Shelby County is an all-volunteer thrift store (492-1760)

Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley is in need of volunteers to serve seniors (498-4593)

Job and Family Services of Shelby County are recruiting foster parents (497-2843)

Alpha Community Center and Holy Angels Soup Kitchen rely on volunteers to cook and prepare lunch meals (498-9758) and (498-0598)

Agape Distribution Inc uses volunteers daily to stock food on the shelves and unload product (498-4368)

POWER-Shelby County United Way needs kindergarten tutors on Monday through Thursdays from 9-10 am (492-2101)

