

Thank You, Community Impact and Investment Volunteers

Each year, many dedicated community volunteers are charged with the difficult task of deciding where the “money” goes. The “money” refers to your investments that you pledged to the United Way of Gaston County 2008 Community-wide Campaign. The Community Impact and Investment process, formerly known as the Allocation process, is a complex one and cannot happen without volunteers. This year was no different and there are so many to thank.

The United Way Community Impact & Investment Panel, led by board member Emmie Bowyer, completed their labor-intensive work of reviewing our partner agency applications for 2009 - 2010 funding based on our priority impact areas: helping children and youth succeed, promoting health and wellness, providing for the elderly and improving individual's employability. Thanks Emmie for your dedication and great leadership!

United Way of Gaston County staff member, Karen Bowman, recruited, trained and scheduled almost 50 volunteers for the Impact and Investment panels. This group of community volunteers represented a cross-section of our community and included professionals, homemakers, elected officials, businessmen/women and retirees. Some served on the panel before; some were new this year. This impressive group all have one thing in common, a desire to see our community be the best it can be by reviewing and insuring the United Way's dollars are being spent where they can make the most impact. The group participated in a training process and learned the difference in program vs. community outcomes. Then they reviewed partner agency financial reports, read applications, talked to agency representatives and volunteers, pored over the information gathered again and will soon make recommendations to the United Way Board. Not an easy task and not one to be taken lightly. This group made some tough decisions – and maybe some not-so-popular decisions. But they were committed to the process.

Thank you to this year's volunteers: Danny Abernathy, Renee Abernathy, Sadie Allran Broom, Jackie Ammons, Shirley Anderson, John Andringa, Greg Balot, Judy Bean, Cheryl Black Loggins, Kevin Carver, Renee Chambers, Lee Connor, Judy Cook, Harry Cooke, Renee King Crump, Nichole Davis, Beth DeBerry, Donna Dobbins, Denece Farris, Joy Fortune, Cathy Hart, Sally Heglar, Debra Jarmon, Erik Johnson, Alyson Jordan, Dennis Jozwiakowski, Ann LaFar, Becky McLain, Jamie Newton, Jennifer Ngu, Ann Ownbey, Steve Patrick, Marlene Smith, Margaret Taylor, Pat Underwood, Bobby Wilson and Barbara Yarbrough. Your time and energy that you gave to this is immeasurable. Thank you for your commitment to our great Gaston community.

Our main priority is to unite our community to help and care for one another by encouraging everyone to LIVE UNITED! Living United is more than a tagline or slogan, it is a belief that if we all work together to advance the common good by giving, advocating and volunteering, we can make lasting changes that prevent problems from happening in the first place. Our Community Impact and Investment panel volunteers are truly a part of this change in Gaston County. Together, united, we can inspire hope and create opportunities for a better

tomorrow. For more information on Community Impact and Investment, please visit our website at www.unitedwaygaston.org or contact us at (704) 864-4554.