

Welcome to our 2010 Campaign Co-chairs!

Just as we finish wrapping up our 2009 Community-wide Campaign, plans are already underway for this year's United Way of Gaston County Campaign. Although our Campaign is officially kicked off in September of every year, the behind the scenes process starts in February. One of the first tasks is to identify a leader, fondly known as our Campaign chair. This job is not an easy one and is so important to the success of the campaign. The volunteer, or in this case, volunteers began working with us in January to begin early planning and will continue now by setting dates, identifying members of their team and meeting with various organizations to ensure the campaign is successful, so that our community benefits greatly. Allow me to introduce to you our 2010 Campaign Co-Chairs, Jackie Ammons and Sheriff Alan Cloninger.

Jackie Ammons was born in Toledo, Ohio, the ninth of ten children, so she is used to working with large groups of people! She received her Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and holds a Masters Degree from Charleston Southern University. Jackie has 25 years of teaching experience and is currently the Coordinator of the Teacher Renewal Program for Gaston College. She has worked with United Way for three years as a Loaned Executive on the Campaign and was honored with the LE of the Year Award for her work with us in 2009. Jackie has also been a member of our Board of Directors for two years. Jackie and her husband, Don have been married for 33 years.

Sheriff Cloninger was born and raised in Dallas, NC, the son of Mary Jo and the late Polie Cloninger, Jr. He attended the University of North Carolina, receiving his Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. He went on to Campbell University School of Law and practiced law for 14 years. Prior to practicing law, he worked in law enforcement with the Dallas Police Department where he achieved the rank of Sargeant. He became the Jail Administrator in 2002 for the Gaston County Sheriff's office, then was elected Sheriff in 2004 and still holds this office today. Sheriff Cloninger holds several law enforcement and law certifications and is actively involved in our community. To name a few, he is a member of the Dallas Optimist Club, Gaston County Bar Association, Gastonia East Rotary Club, Gaston Lodge 263 and several local Shrine Clubs. He is on the Board of Cancer Services, Gaston County Parks and Recreation, Gaston County Museum of Art and History, Dallas Rescue Squad, First Things First of Gaston County (Chairman), Fresh Start, NC Sheriff's Education Training and Standards Commission, NC 9-1-1, NC Street Safe Task Force and is a Trustee on the Gaston College Board. Sheriff Cloninger is married to Cathy Mabry Cloninger and has two children.

I know that their energy, fresh ideas and spirit of serving will carry us through to a fun and exciting campaign. Jackie states, "I am excited about serving our community and look forward to meeting new folks and working with Sheriff Cloninger and the United Way staff." We look forward to working with them too. You will see and hear lots more from Jackie and Sheriff Cloninger. As you see them out and about, wish them luck and most importantly, thank them for their dedication and for leading us in this endeavor. Thanks Jackie and Sheriff – we are excited to have you on board!

