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**United Way
of Northeast Florida**



Community News

SEPTEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

Education-Focused Community Leaders Fund Another Achievers For Life Program at Eugene Butler



Sara Ley and her Achievers For Life mentee, Gina

AFL is a results-driven initiative that works to identify 6th grade students who are at risk of failing in school and eventually dropping out. Signs such as poor attendance, English or Mathematics failure, and out-of-school suspensions are strong indicators that a student will not graduate and, if identified early, students and their families can receive the appropriate services to ensure they graduate on time.

When United Way Tocqueville Society members Oscar and Cathy Munoz pledged \$1 million to establish an "Achievers for Life" (AFL) initiative at Eugene J. Butler Middle School in mid August, another important chapter was added to the school's long and proud history and to the growing success of AFL in Duval County.

The Munoz's excitement was clearly evident in their comments. "We couldn't be happier to do this," Oscar Munoz said. "We're delighted to be a part of it." The entire Munoz family was on hand to celebrate the news and over 70 guests, agency partners, and local media packed the school's media center for the announcement.

Since coming to Jacksonville nearly a decade ago to join CSX, the Munozs have been ardent supporters of quality education and realized that some students haven't been afforded the opportunity of a great education and some haven't taken advantage of a great education. "We need to correct that," Munoz added. "That's what all of this is about."

Butler Principal Maurice

NeSmith was in total agreement. "I am particularly excited about AFL's focus on getting the parent's involved," he said. "Because when parents are involved, good things always happen. Thanks to Oscar and Cathy's fantastic generosity, Eugene Butler is set to reach even greater heights now."

Since the first AFL initiative was established back in 2007, nearly 1,900 students and their families have been helped. In fact, Cathy Munoz is an active community volunteer today and currently mentors an Achievers for

Story continued inside...



Principal Maurice NeSmith and Cathy and Oscar Munoz with their son in the Eugene Butler gymnasium.

2011 UNITED WAY COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN KICKOFF

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2011 • 12:00 NOON - 1:30 P.M.

AT THE HYATT REGENCY JACKSONVILLE RIVERFRONT

225 E. COASTLINE DRIVE | 32202



Join us to celebrate the annual Community Campaign Kickoff and learn about United Way's focus on the building blocks of a good life: education, income and health. Program will also include entertainment, Pacesetter results and announcement of our 2011 campaign goal.

\$15 PER PERSON

11:30 A.M. - REGISTRATION BEGINS

12:00 NOON - 1:30 P.M. - PROGRAM & LUNCHEON

RSVP by September 15 to 390-3260 or

www.LiveUnitedNortheastFlorida.org/eventRSVP

UNITED WAY OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL KICKOFF EVENTS

2011 NASSAU COUNTY KICKOFF

October 6, 2011, 8:30 a.m. (registration begins at 8:00 a.m.)
at the Atlantic Recreation Center

2500 Atlantic Ave, Fernandina Beach 32034

RSVP to Rhoda Rush at 390-3215 or rhoda@uwnefl.org by September 30.

CLAY COUNTY LEADERSHIP BREAKFAST

September 29th, 8:00 a.m. at the VyStar Service Center

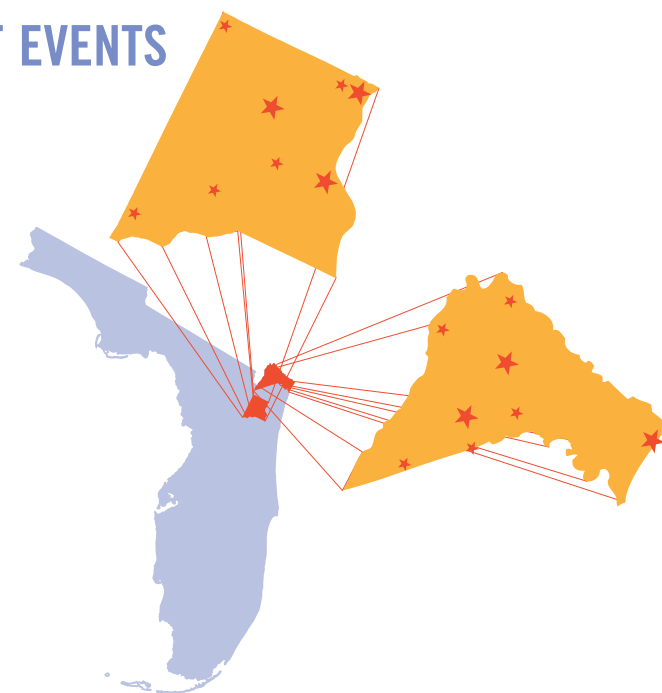
2310 Village Square Parkway, Fleming Island 32003

RSVP to Michelle Z'Borill at 908-2512 or zborillm@vystarcu.org by September 22.

Join us for these breakfasts and learn how United Way of Northeast Florida is creating positive, sustainable change in Clay and Nassau Counties by focusing on the building blocks of a better life: education, income and health.

For both events breakfast will be provided || business casual attire

REGIONAL EVENTS SPONSORED BY VYSTAR CREDIT UNION



Income: Sara

Sara's family struggled to pay their rent and keep their lights on. With the help from a United Way-funded agency, they were able to get caught up with their payments and received financial planning advice for the future. As a way to give back, Sara decided she wanted to volunteer with the agency's after-school program. Once she finishes her homework, she helps the staff

and students with tutoring, snacks and planning outdoor games. For fifteen-year-old Sara, the agency's community center became a home away from home. "Working with mostly at-risk youth, Sara always makes these children feel like they can conquer the world," says Tammy Seymour, program director. "When she's not around, her presence is missed."

Achievers For Life Expands (continued)

Life student attending Arlington Middle School.

“This very generous gift from the Munoz family is wonderful for Eugene J. Butler,” says Connie Hodges, president of United Way of Northeast Florida. “We are proud and excited to welcome the school to the Achievers For Life family. Oscar and Cathy are a great team, and their commitment and involvement with United Way clearly illustrates their personal dedication to improving educational opportunities for students.”

Munoz is Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for CSX, and when he and Cathy arrived here in 2003, one of their first moves was to get involved in United Way. And, they haven’t slowed down. The couple most recently agreed to be Team Captains for “Team de Tocqueville,” the 2011 Tocqueville Society campaign being co-chaired by Jacksonville Jaguars



Michael Ward and Cathy and Oscar Munoz

owners Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver. Oscar serves on United Way’s Audit Committee and the AFL Partnership Council.

With the assistance of a number of quality partners, United Way of Northeast Florida administers a variety of community-focused programs and initiatives. We’d like to acknowledge and thank all of those participating in AFL, including Duval County Public

Schools, Jewish Family & Community Services, Communities In Schools, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida, Learning To Finish, and committed volunteer mentors across Northeast Florida.

The entire United Way of Northeast Florida family extends a heartfelt thank you to Oscar and Cathy for their incredible generosity. As with all AFL schools, student success at Eugene J. Butler Middle School will be reported on in future issues.



Travis Storey announces the generous gift of Oscar and Cathy Munoz.

General Electric/Unison Gives Back to the Community



An employee shows preschool children how to grow seedlings

Five-hundred hands, plenty of sweat and scores of heartfelt smiles – all inspiring measures of the approximately 250 GE Aviation-Unison employees who spent the afternoon impacting the areas of education, income and health at a recent volunteer event.

GE Aviation-Unison partnered with United Way of Northeast Florida to provide an afternoon of volunteering for employees who participated in activities including painting a mural for an elementary school partner, sprucing up YMCA camp locations, planting a garden at a school for children with disabilities, and engaging with elderly citizens at a local senior center.

GE Aviation-Unison didn’t just stop at giving back

through its employees’ volunteer time, but the company also provided a grant award for \$1,800 to help provide supplies to help support their activities.

Jason Swinny, plant leader of GE Aviation-Unison said his company encourages its employees to get involved in the community and that United Way provides them the opportunity to do so. “This event was just an overall success for our facility. It gave us the opportunity to learn about some of the many organizations that the United Way supports, and it showed how teamwork can generate such positive excitement from our workforce.”

Swinny added that his company values their relationship with United Way and its impact partners which provided multiple volunteer opportunities for GE Aviation-Unison employees. “I was very proud of our employee participation (over 900 hours of service) and look

forward to continuing the partnership we have with the United Way. I would encourage other local sites to consider volunteer-teambuilding events such as this one!” United Way coordinated with partner agencies and other United Way friends to organize activities among 10 locations including DLC Nurse & Learn, Community Connections of Jacksonville and Pine Castle, Inc. Companies interested in organizing a volunteer event for their employees may contact the Volunteer and Community Engagement office at www.uwnefl.org/groupvolunteering.



GE/Unison employees paint a United States mural at Saint Clair Evans Academy

2011 CAMPAIGN CABINET

United Way has assembled a team of community leaders to guide the 2011-2012 annual campaign and increase the resources needed across the Northeast Florida region. Their leadership will support our focus on improving education, income and health – the building blocks of a good quality of life for all.



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Delores Barr and J. Wayne Weaver
and the Tocqueville Leadership Team
Tocqueville Society
Jacksonville Jaguars and the Jaguars Foundation



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