

con·nect



(kə·nekt) v. 1. To join together.

Ready, willing and UNABLE to serve

In November 2009, a report was released from a large group of retired military generals who are part of "Mission: Readiness." The report is alarming stating that 75% of the 18-24 year olds do not qualify to enter the military due to one of three factors: education and their inability to read; they are physically unfit or they have a criminal record. The report sites serious concerns for national security due to the number of young men and women's lack of readiness for military service.



One of the key recommendations of addressing this concern is support for early childhood development and

education. For many years United Way of Weld County's *Promises for Children* has been committed to supporting quality early childhood development. We know that early childhood health, welfare and school readiness is essential for a child's future success. Thanks to our donors we have been able to focus on this area.

The "Mission: Readiness" report puts a whole new focus and dimension on the importance of early childhood education. The path to success does not begin at age 17. The earliest months and years of life are a crucial time when we build the foundation of children's character, how they relate to others and how they learn. Long-term research shows that quality early childhood education raises graduation rates by up to 44%. Research further shows that kids who fail to get it are 70% more likely to be arrested for a violent crime by age 18, making them

potentially unfit for service and a threat to their communities. Furthermore, every dollar invested in quality early childhood programs can save \$16.

Your investment in the next generation will secure a prepared future workforce in Weld County and help to preserve our nation's security, freedom, and opportunity. Together we can inspire our young people to do better and help prepare them for productive citizenship; this includes fully funding early childhood education programs, improving graduation rates, supporting families in ways that improve parenting skills and helping troubled kids get back on track.

Mission: Readiness is the nonprofit, bi-partisan organization of senior retired military leaders ensuring continued American security and prosperity into the 21st century by calling for smart investments in the next generation of American children.

No longer a horrible secret thanks to you

The interview had to be done immediately. Protective issues regarding Miranda's safety were imperative. It was difficult to talk about. Miranda was courageous as she told the forensic interviewer about her story of sexual abuse spanning several years. She was so relieved that she could finally tell her horrible secret. At the end of her heartbreaking account, Miranda looked through her tears at the interviewer and said "Today I start my life over."

Your investment to United Way helps youngsters, like this young client of A Kid's Place, have the opportunity to move forward and reach for life long success. When you care about your community your community cares about the children that hold close and conceal such trauma. Thank you.



Articles reporting results use representational names and photos to protect privacy.



United Way...a year-round process

One thing that we know about helping each other in our community is that when one child succeeds in school or one working family becomes financially stable, it benefits not just that one child or that one family -- our whole community is strengthened. We are all interconnected. That child who succeeds in school has a better chance of succeeding in life, impacting the lives of all she touches. When that one family achieves financial stability, their friends and relatives may learn from them; they support local businesses; they have a new-found ability to give back to the community – and on it goes.

We know donors like you, in Weld County want to ensure that their contributed dollars are making a difference. Do you want to know what more you can do to help? If you answered “yes” we invite you to interact and become involved with your United Way of Weld County.

Changes can’t happen without people like you, who seek to make a difference. This is your community. You touch people and change them for the better. United Way is grateful for the generosity of time money and talent that is given every day toward the changes people in this community asked for and respect; early childhood development, success for our young people, assisting families and responding to people in crisis.

“Helping people happens all year round,” said Jeannine Truswell United Way's Executive Director. "Year-round, we're looking to connect and engage and deepen our relationships with people that want to lend a helping hand and make a difference in our community. There is no magic start date or end date for United Way." Call me today...353-4300 if you'd like to get more involved

This year, you'll certainly find that the more you give the more you'll get. And what we all desire is a brighter future for all children and families, for young and old alike. Everyone deserves to reach their greatest potential. We look forward to hearing from you. You make a difference

Jeannine Truswell, Executive Director

What if I fall?

Doris, 80 years young, recently underwent hip replacement surgery. After the procedure she was in the hospital for over 2 months recovering and receiving therapy. Upon returning home, she was shocked that her phone bill had reached \$205.

The telephone was the only communication available should she fall. She was very concerned that her phone would be disconnected. The stress was affecting her recovery. Doris was worried to the point where she couldn't sleep at night. A call to 2-1-1 made all the difference.

A United Way 2-1-1 Call Specialist connected her with the Faith Community Service Fund. In short order she was interviewed and her phone bill was paid in full. Thanks to you this is just one example of how the collaborative nature between 2-1-1 and over 275 agencies in Weld County works to improve lives.

United Way of Weld County's 2-1-1 Information and Referral program serves the residents of Weld County. Trained specialists answer questions and connect callers with all available services, no matter what kind of help is needed. All calls are free and confidential.

Making a difference is just a *click* away

United Way is accountable and we want you to be the first to know how your investment is making an impact in Weld County. We want you to be informed of the change your contribution is helping to create.

Historically we have published a newsletter, mailed to your home or business, filled with important updates and information about community issues.

Your United Way is making changes that are considered “green” with electronic updates and this is how YOU can make a difference. Simply visit the United Way website, www.uniteway-weld.org and sign up for our e-newsletters. It's quick and It's easy!

United Way Cornerstone Partners pay for our administrative and fundraising costs, but we pursue every avenue to reduce cost and waste. The dollars saved are dollars that can go toward improving lives in Weld County. Please sign up today.



Constant Contact is the provider of our e-newsletter. This third party vendor offers its services at no cost to United Way of Weld County. UWWC does not sell or share information provided by its patrons.

A look at what YOU have achieved for Weld County



Latina spanish speaking childcare providers are committed to learning and completing the PASO program.



Refugee children received school supplies to prepare them for the journey ahead.



You may download a prescription discount card at www.unitedway-weld.org Click on Familywize.



No matter what kind of help you need simply dial 2-1-1 or 1-800-559-5590 when calling from a cell phone.

United Way of Weld County's mission is to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of our community. For many years, you and United Way have been changing conditions in our community so children and families have opportunities for a good life. We thank you for your time, talent and treasure because we know that to create change, individuals and organizations must work together on common goals. For your review, some recent and significant accomplishments:

Early Childhood/School Readiness

- United Way received \$167,000 grant from the Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition to replicate the PASO (Providers Advancing School Outcomes) program in Weld County. This program will reach out to Latino children in unlicensed child care situations. Education, training and support are provided to child care providers and parents. This hard to reach population will receive educational materials and encouragement to help assure identified children are better prepared for school.

Youth Success/Supporting Improved Graduation Rates

- United Way received \$36,000 grant from Weld County to distribute educational materials, school supplies, hygiene items to refugee children and youth in our community. Distribution and training on use of materials was managed by United Way staff.

Self Sufficiency/Financial Stability

- United Way distributed hundreds of familywize® prescription discount cards. Weld County families are saving thousands of dollars in prescribed medicine each month. United Way partnered with **familywize®** 3 years ago and to date, the overall reported savings to families is \$146,947.

Assisting People through Crisis

- United Way facilitated 2 trainings for more than 75 nonprofit professionals who are part of the Housing and Emergency Services Network (HESN) Family Budgeting and Credit Repair and How to Walk a Client through a Department of Human Service Application.

Connecting People to Resources

- United Way's 2-1-1 Information and Referral program made over 1700 referrals to health and human services in the last 6 months. Demographics of those helped include: 23% male; 77% female; with 80% of client callers under the age of 45.

and MORE...

- United Way continues to coordinate and support 15 Americorps VISTA members at 15 nonprofit programs throughout our community.
- United Way surpassed the \$2.85 million fundraising goal

Thanks to your investment United Way of Weld County is able to leverage and maximize your contribution and achieve results like those listed above.

We sincerely THANK YOU

To say thank you for community support, United Way of Weld County held its annual Celebration of Excellence to thank and recognize businesses, volunteers and community members. Over 300 attended the United Way luncheon at the University Center Ballroom

“Each year we have our awards event where we recognize donors and volunteers who have excelled in supporting United Way of Weld County” said Executive Director Jeannine Truswell. “It’s our way to tell the community thank you, let them know our campaign numbers in comparison to our goal and thank them for their hard work and dedication to United Way.”



Volunteer of the Year Dylan Bohlender and Executive Director Jeannine Truswell

“We have some businesses and organizations that really stepped up their contribution, and it is our privilege to recognize and honor them with what they have done to help United Way

and their community,” said Christi Smith, United Way’s Resource Development Director. The Centennial Circle award is the highest honor a company can receive. The winners have increased company and employee giving by 10% or they have ranked in the 20% per capita in corporate and employee giving.

Also honored at the event for outstanding achievement

Community Partner of the Year - Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment;
Nonprofit Professional of the Year -Leona Martens, Executive Director of Weld Food Bank;
Volunteer of the Year - Dylan Bohlender
Company of the Year - North Colorado Medical Center - Banner Health



Campaign Chair, Bob Hinderaker and NCMC/Banner Health CEO Rick Sutton



2009 Centennial Circle Award Winners

- Advantage Bank
- Atmos Energy
- Connecting Point
- Ghent Motors
- Kennedy & Coe, LLC
- Monfort Family Foundation
- New West Bank
- North Colorado Medical Center - Banner Health
- State Farm Insurance Companies
- The Greeley Tribune
- UBS Financial Services, Inc.
- Xcel Energy



- Hans Coester M.D.
 Kyle Futo
 Mr Kenneth and
 Dr Cynthia Gryboski
 Richard and Mary Kemme
 Roger and Jamie Lynn Knoph
 Frank and Donna Lakin
 Dave and Debie Larsen
 Charlie K and Vanessa Monfort
 Myra Monfort
 Dick and Chris Monfort
 Tom and Faith Roche
 Mike and Lori Shoop
 Bob and Betty Tointon
 Seth and Kaye Ward
 Winograd Family Fund
 at the Community Foundation
 Stow and Maggie Witwer

Members of the Tocqueville Society are leadership givers who contribute \$10,000 or more each year to United Way of Weld County.

United Way surpasses campaign goal

The success of the United Way of Weld County 2009-10 fundraising campaign says a lot about the generosity of people and businesses in Weld County.

“We want to thank the local businesses and industries that participated in this year’s campaign and the many small businesses and individuals that responded as well,” said Bob Hinderaker, Chair for this most recent fundraising campaign.

The businesses and individuals who gave to make this year’s campaign a success deserve many thanks. Hinderaker expressed that gratitude on behalf of the United Way.

The campaign focused on three primary areas of community concern: early childhood development, youth success and self sufficiency for families and adults.

“Our mission is to improve lives. The

funds raised during the campaign will affect the lives of people in Weld County. The money given to our United Way effort stays right here in this county where it has a direct impact on our local folks. One out of every four members of our community is served by a United Way grantee agency, usually at no cost to the recipient,” continued Hinderaker. “Those are your friends, family and neighbors.”

United Way of Weld County surpassed its \$2.85 million goal. Weld County has a history and generous tradition of supporting the organization and the agencies and programs it serves.

So again this year, thanks to YOU and 5,000 other donors...

A JOB WELL DONE!

Our printing was donated...**AGAIN!**

Recently United Way staff and a half dozen young volunteers from Weld County Youth Conservation Corps unloaded a fourteen foot truck filled with boxes of printed brochures and posters for the 2010-11 fundraising campaign. United Way of Weld County's Cornerstone Partner, Worldcolor-Loveland generously donates the paper and printing each year.

"This gift is valued at over \$10,000," stated Marketing Communications Director, Tori Baldwin. "Worldcolor has provided the printing of our materials for 4 years. The company uses their paper overstock and print during a production lull. This cost savings allows more available resources for community programs."



United Way's Cornerstone Partners are companies and foundations who choose to direct all or a portion of their corporate contributions to fundraising and administrative expenses. The gift can be cash or in-kind. In-kind donations must replace an operating expense. The commitments of our Cornerstone Partners make it possible for 100% of every undesignated donation to go directly toward helping people in Weld County.

Thank You Cornerstone Partners

Monfort Family Foundation
NCMC/Banner Health - NCMC Inc.
State Farm Insurance Companies
The Greeley Tribune
Xcel Energy
Flood & Peterson Insurance, Inc.
Phelps-Tointon, Inc.
Roche Constructors, Inc.
Worldcolor Loveland
104.7 FM Pirate Radio
Atmos Energy
Big R Bridge
Colorado Premium Foods
Farmers Bank – Ault
Professional Finance Company, Inc.
RR Donnelley Norwest, Inc.

Books, books and **MORE** books!

It was a BIG yellow truck, filled with over \$16,000 of donated product from Greeley's Borders book store that temporarily blocked the flow of traffic in the parking lot behind United Way of Weld County. The gift comes through a national program that is managed by Gifts In Kind International that focuses on helping communities and improving the lives of people in need. Gifts In Kind International is a national charity that distributes new, donated products to qualified charities.



Helping children get off to a good start

"Borders has a reputation of being generous with United Way's *Promises for Children*. They are a most understanding partner when it comes to children's literacy. It's important to get books in the hands of our little ones and this donation will help us to get that done," said Caroline Gelatt from United Way of Weld County.

Additional children's books were recently received from Woody's News Stand in downtown Greeley and general supplies from Office Depot.



Now, about that BIG yellow truck...

United Way of Weld County is continually stunned by the generosity of Weld County Garage and their Commercial Department. From time to time United Way is in need of a large truck to transport supplies from Point A to Point B and Weld County Garage makes sure we have the necessary vehicle to meet our needs.

Over and over again, they have provided a truck for pick up and delivery of countless items for our School Supply Drive, marketing materials and transporting event gear for Day of Caring, Love to learn Conference, Children's Festival, the United Way Auction, and more. Thank you, Weld County Garage for your bigheartedness! What would we have done without you?



The \$VALUE\$ of a volunteer

Since America's founding, volunteers and voluntary associations have provided vital services to our communities. These groups were so central to society that when Alexis de Tocqueville traveled through the country in the 1830s, he complimented them as uniquely American. Whether to help a single individual or ignite change that benefits many, people in this country have come together through voluntary organizations for over 230 years.

"United Way of Weld County has long promoted the benefits of volunteering -- both for the community and for the individual. By contributing their time and talent to causes that promote the common good, volunteers provide vital services in virtually every

aspect of life," commented Sandi Meier, UWWC Volunteer Resource Coordinator. "Like all organizations that depend on volunteerism, we are continually grateful for our volunteers."

"United Way's work is important because it positively impacts everyone in the community. An initial act of giving inspires others to give - it's contagious. United Way champions this giving spirit!"

- Dylan Bohlender
United Way of Weld County
2009 Volunteer of the Year

The estimated dollar value of volunteer time is \$20.85 per hour. Nonprofit organizations can use this estimate to quantify the enormous value volunteers provide. United Way has over 600 volunteers and calculating only one hour of their time is nearly a \$13,000 gift to the community.

Is Brody ready for school?



Thanks to you, yes he is.

Sarah has three children and is struggling to keep them in day care. She recently was laid off from her work and it made daily life difficult for the family. Her five year old, Brody, had some behavioral issues and the complications of not having a monthly income didn't help.

Fortunately, Sarah found a night job, not ideal but, it offered health insurance benefits and she was able to keep Brody in the Colorado Preschool Program.

This little boy has made great cognitive strides in his pre-

47 Graduate ...Preschoolers that is!



It's that time of year when graduation celebrations are happening throughout Weld County. United Way reports that forty-seven preschool children between 3 and 5 years of age graduated from the first Raising A Reader program. Through their care provider, participating children are given bright Red Book Bags containing four developmentally appropriate books.

The bags are rotated weekly during the school year, exposing the children to a variety of titles. The graduates receive a brand new book and a Blue Bag of their very own to keep as they head off to kindergarten and a lifetime journey of reading enjoyment.

UWWC's Raising A Reader program started in October 2009 at ABC Child Development Center (Central) with 110 participants. Two new centers and 7 home providers will expose over 100 children to the Red Book bags in the coming school year.

kindergarten class at Highland Early Childhood Education Center. He can write his name, knows his colors and shapes, understands patterning and can identify letters and numbers in random order. He is also making friends and is learning to understand and control his emotions better. The teachers at Highland believe Brody is ready for kindergarten in the fall and will be successful.

Your investment in United Way of Weld County helps promote success for young children like Brody. Every child deserves the opportunity to succeed.

It's easy being GREEN

Your United Way does everything it can to reduce cost and waste. In 2009 we contributed to another phenomenal recycling effort in our wonderful Weld County.

United Way recycled 3,910 pounds of mixed paper, newspaper, cardboard and containers and helped save: 33 trees, 6 tons of wood, 203 gallons of oil and 13,475 gallons of water (enough to fill 27 6-person hot tubs). It's a small dent in the scheme of things, but you can help us to be greener by signing up for electronic updates and newsletters.

It's easy. It's the "e-way"... www.unitedway-weld.org



Board Spotlight

Margie Martinez Perusek has volunteered for United Way of Weld County for over 10 years. She currently is a member of the Board of Directors and serves as the overall chair for Resource Investment. Her leadership was called upon this spring as requests from agencies and programs were \$1.1 million more than funds available. Over 50 volunteers reviewed these requests and deliberated on difficult decision making.

Margie served as the liaison between these volunteers and the Board of Directors. As the Undersheriff at the Weld County Sheriff's Department, her skills and strengths include sound judgment, the ability to be objective and critical thinking. Those skills helped United Way volunteers throughout this entire process. "Having the best volunteers makes the liaison job easy in these difficult times" said Martinez Perusek

A special thanks on behalf of all our donors to Margie Martinez Perusek and the many volunteers for leading this difficult process.

United Way of Weld County Board of Directors

Dan Dennie, *Banner Health - Chair*

Byron Bateman, *Cache Bank & Trust*

Fred Bauer, *Farmers Bank-Ault*

Gary Boehler, *CareStream Health, Inc*

Holly Bressler, *Harold Winograd Elementary*

Bruce Broderius, *Greeley-Evans School Board*

Perry Buck, *Northern Colorado Event Planning, LLC*

Shelley Costigan, *Sears Real Estate*

Ruben Flores, *Colorado State University*

Mike Geile, *Aims Community College Board*

Bob Hinderaker, *Signature Bank*

Jay Hinrichs, *University of Northern Colorado*

Rick Jenkins, *Flood & Peterson Insurance, Inc.*

Dave Long, *Weld County Commissioner*

Robert Lowenbach, *19th Judicial District - Retired Judge*

Margie Martinez Perusek, *Weld County Sheriff's Office*

Bill May, *Rancher*

Roy Otto, *City of Greeley*

Jennifer Pena, *State Farm Insurance Companies*

Doug Round, *D & F Specialists*

Cathy Schulte, *Upstate Economic Development Corp.*

Manny Sisneros, *Alamo Liquor*

Nancy Teksten, *Community Volunteer*

Ted Warner, *Connecting Point*

Stow Witwer, *Witwer Oldenburg Barry & Johnson LLP*

September 11, 2010...save the date

DO SOMETHING GREAT
VOLUNTEER

EVERYBODY CAN
BE GREAT, BECAUSE
EVERYBODY CAN
SERVE.

UNITED WAY OF WELD COUNTY'S
DAY OF CARING
SEPTEMBER 11

MAKE PLANS NOW
FOR A FUN AND
FRIENDLY WAY TO
SERVE YOUR
COMMUNITY

United Way of Weld County will host "Day of Caring" on Saturday September 11th. Organizers are asking interested parties to save the date and plan for an exhilarating experience.

The 2010 Day of Caring will link community service projects with volunteers across Weld County who will support local not-for-profit organizations by committing volunteer time and service. Projects will consist of beautification and landscaping projects, minor repairs, painting, building projects, and other jobs that can be completed by a team of volunteers during the four-hour period.

"The call to engage in our local communities is stronger than ever," said Jeannine Truswell, United Way's Executive Director. "Many nonprofit agencies still have to do more with less due to economic times. As a result, our United Way is excited to facilitate this

volunteer, community-wide project."

Last year's Day of Caring was a great success. The day mobilized more than 200 volunteers who completed over 25 community projects. Each year, thousands of local citizens spend countless volunteer hours providing a variety of support across our community. Your United Way has been working for many years to recruit and link volunteers with meaningful opportunities.

"It takes a village working together to improve our local communities," said Truswell. Please join us on September 11. Make a difference in your community and LIVE UNITED."

A Community Celebration to appreciate and energize Day of Caring volunteers and agencies is being planned for the evening of September 10 at historic Lincoln Park in downtown Greeley. For information about Day of Caring contact Tori Baldwin at 970-353-4300 ext.2576 or tori@united-way-weld.org.

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It was hard to ask for help



“We have always taken care of ourselves. But when my husband lost his job, ended up in the hospital with the flu and then experienced kidney failure, I was stunned. We had no income from his job loss and the hospital bill was so large I didn’t know where to turn...I felt helpless and not in control of my life. I called the 2-1-1 number that my brother had heard of, that was a God send and you helped me.

It was hard to ask for help but the people made me feel like I still was a worthy person. They didn’t talk down to me. I think that made me feel comfortable at a very low point in my life. Thank all who are part of this program. God bless all of you.”

- United Way 2-1-1 Client

Did you know?

United Way of Weld County’s 2-1-1 Information and Referral program handled an average of 1400 calls per month over the last 6 months. People needing help finding health and human services can either dial 2-1-1 from a land line telephone, 1-800-559-5590 from a cell phone or United Way at 353-4300 during business hours.

For individuals and professionals who want to access the 2-1-1 database of over 1600 health and human service resources, go to the United Way of Weld County website at www.unitedway-weld.org and click on 2-1-1. Type in a keyword describing the type of service you are looking for to access health and human services available

United Way of Weld County’s 2-1-1 Information and Referral program serves the residents of Weld County. Trained specialists answer questions and connect callers with all available services, no matter what kind of help is needed. All calls are free and confidential.