

GREAT THINGS
HAPPEN WHEN YOU
LIVE UNITED



GIVE



ADVOCATE



VOLUNTEER

Dear UWBC Friend,

Happy 2017!

We have many exciting plans for this year as we continue to collaborate with community partners to mobilize resources, finding sustainable solutions that lead to a higher quality of life here in Brazoria County. We know we will succeed because *you* have joined the fight for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in our community.

Let's begin 2017 **strong** and **united!**
#LIVEUNITED#BrazoriaCountyStrong

Sincerely,

United Way of Brazoria County

In This Issue

- Tax Preparers Needed
- Free Mammograms for BISD
- Thank You Workplace Campaigners!
- GIVES-MAS Recap
- Volunteers of the Quarter
- Dow Steps Up
- ELS Gives Back
- Zachry Shows Up

VITA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Shane Pirtle and Lonnie Rathbun: UWBC
Volunteers of the Quarter.

FREE TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE



United Way of Brazoria County and the Internal Revenue Service will be collaborating again this year with Alvin Family Community Center for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance/Earned Income tax Credit Initiative.

In 2016, VITA volunteers saved Brazoria County residents **\$66,641** in Earned Income Tax Credits and Child Tax Credits!

Training is mandatory for volunteers to learn new/latest tax laws, changes, and/or additions for the 2016 tax season.

Required Training:

Saturday - January 21, 2017

- 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- Alvin Family Community Center
 - 1031 West Sealy, Alvin, Texas 77511

If you are interested in volunteering to interview clients and review their initial paperwork, to be a translator, to prepare taxes, and/or to review final tax returns before submitting for electronic filing, contact **Gloria Luna**, gluna@uwbc.org, or call our office at **979.849.9402**.



UWBC is honored to announce Shane Pirtle and Lonnie Rathbun as the first *Volunteers of the Quarter* for 2017.

These fine gentlemen go above and beyond every day, driving the recovery and rebuilding of Holiday Lakes in the wake of the flooding last June. Lonnie and Shane are hands-on volunteers: coaching AmeriCorps youth, assessing projects, obtaining supplies, and working together and separately to bring families back into their homes.

Lonnie learned many of his skills from his father, who was an electrician. As he grew older, he too found the desire to pass on that knowledge through directorships with U.M. ARMY (United Methodist Action Reach-Out Mission by Youth). He and Shane work with U.M. ARMY youth almost every summer to bring their valuable skills to a new generation. Like Lonnie, Shane also received his passion for building and construction from his father.

Together, Lonnie and Shane have dedicated over 400 hours of their time to rebuilding Holiday Lakes, even taking some precious time over the Christmas season to continue their efforts.

And, they have an important message to share - The most needed resource right now in the rebuilding of Brazoria County is **you**. Your knowledge is needed to assess projects. Your expertise is needed to coach volunteers. Your skills are needed to make homes safe for families. Will you join them?

BISD/THE ROSE PARTNER FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH



This is The Rose's debut year as a United Way of Brazoria County funded community partner. We are excited to see their Mobile Mammography Program work in collaboration with other important community institutions to enhance UWBC's mission to fight for the health of every person in Brazoria County.

Now through January 24, The Rose and Brazosport Independent School District (BISD) are teaming up to support employee health with free mammogram screenings through the Mobile Mammography Program.

The Rose's partnership with BISD wellness program began in 2016. This partnership provides a way for faculty and staff to have their mammogram screening and be back in the classroom/office in minutes.

65% of all women screened through The Rose's mobile program report that they would not have had their annual mammogram if the mobile unit had not been available.

Many women put off getting their mammograms; most cite busy schedules and no time for their personal health needs. The Rose mobile teams make the process of getting your mammogram quick and convenient, taking only about fifteen minutes for each mammogram.

Most of the women screened through this BISD program have insurance coverage, but sponsorship programs are available to provide no-cost mammograms to qualifying women without insurance. To find out more about The Rose's Mobile Mammography

If you are interested in volunteering your time and expertise toward the rebuilding and recovery of Brazoria County, contact Gloria Luna, gluna@uwbc.org, or call our office at 979.849.9402.



Follow this [link](#), if you would like to invest in the rebuilding of Brazoria County through a donation to the Brazoria County Long-Term Recovery Committee.



Dow Employees Get Fit and Give Back with "Walk This Way" Step Challenge

Teams of up to 8 Dow employees ran a unique employee giving campaign fundraiser last season with their "We LOVE the 80s 'Walk this Way' Step Challenge."

For 8 weeks this fall, these workplace campaigners walked, jogged, and ran their way toward a \$20,000 challenge offered by The Dow Foundation. For every mile each of these 80s Lovers logged, The DOW Foundation pledged \$.50 to United Way of Brazoria County.

This fun employee giving campaign generated \$19,440 with 38,880 miles to help advance the common good in our

A BIG EMPLOYEE CAMPAIGN THANK YOU



Thanks again to our wonderful companies who conduct workplace campaigns year after year. We couldn't improve lives without you! Campaigns have wrapped up at Chevron Phillips Chemical Company, Phillips 66 - Sweeny, and Zachry Group campaigns at all six sites throughout our county. We offer a salute to our wonderful employee and corporate partners!



THANKS FOR CELEBRATING THE 12 DAYS OF GIVES-MAS WITH US!

From December 13-24, 2016, the United Way of Brazoria County Facebook Page hosted a new annual tradition, the 12 Days of GIVES-MAS.

UWBC is excited to announce the GIVES-MAS winners of the LIVE UNITED Tshirt drawing are:

- Tonia Brown
- Vanessa LeAnn
- Bettye Smith

THANK YOU to everyone who

community. Great work steppers!

If you'd like to get involved in giving back or in brainstorming creative solutions for your next campaign, contact Susan Cooman at scooman@uwbc.org or call our office at 979.849.9402.



Emerging Leaders Help to Deliver Christmas Gifts to Over 800 Brazoria County Children

The Emerging Leaders Society was active over the holiday season working with the Brazoria County Dream Center's Dream Gifts event program. These young professionals worked all day on December 15 to make sure the Dream Center would be able to distribute gifts and bicycles to over 800 Brazoria County children before Christmas.

View our photos on [flickr](#)

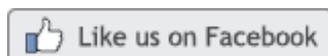
To view a FULL ALBUM of Emerging Leaders at work, visit us on Flickr.

This is ELS's second service event since its kickoff in summer of 2016. Many more fun events just like this are planned for 2017 and beyond. Do you know someone who wants to be a part of a socially-conscious young professionals group? If you or someone you know is interested in joining Emerging Leaders Society and would like to know more, contact Andrea Raiff @ araiff@uwbc.org, visit the ELS website, or call our office at 979.849.9402.

 Like us on Facebook

Want to stay connected to ELS events? Like ELS on Facebook!

celebrated and participated in the GIVES-MAS festivities!



Want to know when the next fun event is happening? Like UWBC on Facebook to stay connected!



Zachry Group Shows Up in Numbers

Over 2700 Zachry employees participated in their United Way workplace campaign at the CP Chem Project in Old Ocean, Texas.

Over the course of the day, this massive tent was filled four times as Zachry employees came to hear the messages of Zachry's community investment and to learn that their investment last year helped to provide over 1,000,000 services to those in need in Brazoria County.



To view a FULL ALBUM of Zachry workplace campaign photos, visit us on Flickr.



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