

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

A quarterly newsletter by United Way of Hood County

SUMMER 2017

UNITED WE FIGHT.
UNITED WE WIN.
LIVE UNITED.

Forward Training Center changes lives

by Nancy Pricer

After a bad choice of hanging around with the wrong crowd when she was young landed her a 20-year sentence in prison, Jennette Cox is ready to move forward with positive choices in her life. The best choice she made was connecting with Forward Training Center (FTC) of Hood County after she was released last fall.

The mission of the FTC is to educate, support and inspire life-changing growth in men and women. That is exactly what Jennette needed in her life.

There have been so many changes in technology over the past 20 years that passed by Jennette. Back then, Amazon had just begun and was only selling books, pay-at-the-pump did not exist, everyone still had landlines and the fortunate people who had cell phones felt privileged to own a "dumb" phone. See FTC, pg 3



Jennette Cox

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Fun game show fundraiser set for Oct. 12

There's going to be more than one game in town this fall. There will be two, and everyone attending will be a winner.

On Thursday, Oct. 12 at 6 p.m., United Way of Hood County is hosting its annual special event fundraiser and is bringing in The Game Show Source, a professional company that provides a full range of TV style games, game shows, corporate games and team building services.

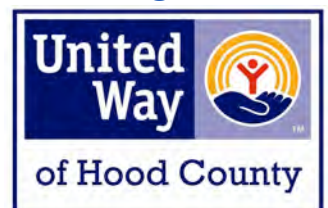
Best of the Best - The game everyone plays

Best of the Best involves the entire audience who will experience all the TV game show excitement and learn while having great fun. The Game Show Source combines the most popular elements of game shows with a wireless audience response system to create a show that is engaging and fun for everyone. The competition promises to be fierce when everyone in the room competes as individuals or teams to answer questions quickly and correctly in order to be the Best of the Best at the event and then move on to play Survey Says.

See Game Show, pg 2



LIVE UNITED



EDUCATION, FINANCIAL STABILITY, HEALTH.

Advancing the common good is less about helping one person at a time and more about changing systems to help all of us. We are all connected and interdependent. We all win when a child succeeds in school, when families are financially stable, when people are healthy. United Way's goal is to create long-lasting changes by addressing the underlying causes of these problems. Living united means being a part of the change. It takes everyone in the community working together to create a brighter future. Give. Advocate. Volunteer. LIVE UNITED in Hood County.

From the President

On a typical July in Texas, we sure are feelin' the temperatures rising! Here at United Way this season of transition is busy and exciting!



Doug Dobbins

In June, I had the privilege of signing my name to 20 checks, representing 50 percent of the allocations to be paid to the United Way of Hood County partners for 2017. The remaining allocations will be paid in December of this year. These funds total \$240,000 given by you, our community, in support of programs and services meeting the needs of residents here.

These programs and services include food pantries, a women's shelter, counseling services, a medical/dental/vision clinic, children's advocacy center, cancer care services, senior services, and numerous others meeting the needs of children and families.

Now, we transition into full United Way campaign mode. "Pacesetter" companies lead by conducting early internal campaigns, and the community-wide campaign runs from September through November. Keep your eyes out for the LARGE United Way "thermometers" throughout town, indicating progress towards the 2018 campaign goal. You can give online, purchase a table or ticket to our October FUNdraiser event, mail a donation or even consider legacy giving.

We, as a community, can surely meet and exceed the challenge.

Let's make this a race to the top. Thank you very much for your generosity and support!

Game Show, continued from pg 1 Survey Says

Two teams compete in this game with three, four or five members on each team. Each team tries to guess the survey questions that have been answered by about one hundred people. Teams score points based on how many people came up with the same answer. This is one of The Game Source's most popular game show packages, according to their website.

Sponsorships Available

Reserve your table today. "There is a good chance that we will sell out of tables this year since we are going back to the Conference Center," said Board President Doug Dobbins. "It's smaller than the Reunion Grounds where we have had our annual fundraising event for the last several years."

Wheel of Fortune Sponsor: \$5,000

- Table seating for eight
- Four game show remotes per table
- Prime table seating
- Guaranteed team of up to eight for one round of "Survey Says"
- Sponsor level recognition at event (introductions, full page program, full screen projection with logo)
- Recognition on all pre-event social media and United Way of Hood County website
- Post-event thank you in Hood County News

Let's Make a Deal Sponsor: \$2,500

- Table seating for eight
- Two game show remotes per table
- Preferred table seating
- Sponsor level recognition at event (introductions, 1/2 page program, screen projection with logo)

- Recognition on all pre-event social media and United Way of Hood County website

- Post-event thank you in Hood County News

The Price is Right Sponsor: \$1,000

- Table seating for eight
- One game show remote per table
- Company logo displayed in program
- Recognition at event, announcements and all pre-event social media and United Way of Hood County website
- Post-event thank you in Hood County News

Individual Tickets Available

Individual tickets are available to purchase in advance for \$125. Ticket price includes dinner and a seat at a table.

Auction

Auction items will be available and First Choice Raffle Tickets will be available for \$100 each. The First Choice Auction winner will be announced as food service winds down. Those purchasing the raffle tickets will have a chance to pick their choice from the auction items.

For More Information

For more information on the event or to purchase sponsorships or tickets, contact the United Way of Hood County office at 817-579-5100, email office@unitedwayhoodcounty.com, or stop by the United Way office located inside BBVA Compass Bank at the intersection of Highway 377 and Acton Highway.

From the Executive Director

I recently returned from vacation in a state where casinos are legal. I was shocked to see slot machines in grocery stores!



Becky Mauldin

Many Americans chase the dream and, even if not reality, imagine being “rich” and enjoying the luxuries that money affords.

Have you ever stopped to wonder, however, what it would be like to live in poverty? Could you handle it for even a day? Would you know how to apply for unemployment or cash assistance? Can you imagine the weight of worry, wondering how the next utility bill will be paid? What about food and clothes and the crisis of illness thrown into the mix?

We are excited to announce that we are busy collaborating with Forward Training Center in putting together an interactive, non-traditional, and very powerful training for our community in January, 2018. This “Poverty Simulation” experience is designed to equip participants to understand the effects that poverty has on individuals, families, and communities as a whole. Participants take on roles in the simulation and are charged with the task of locating resources, making decisions, and “making ends meet” as if it were a real-life situation. For example, a role may be: You are a single mother of three. After losing your job, you are evicted from your apartment. You have \$72. Your challenge is to feed your family, find alternative housing and seek a job or support.

Volunteers take part acting in varying social services/ business roles (bankers, teachers, healthcare workers, etc.) and

See ED, pg 4

FTC, continued from pg 1

Jennette is navigating many learning curves. She is succeeding through the classes offered through the Jobs for Life program at FTC, with the support of the FTC staff and her one-on-one volunteer mentor, June Brooks.

The day after Jennette was released from prison, she met Krista Lash, who works for a local health clinic. She explained her situation to Krista who called Ron Buckallew at FTC to get her enrolled in the Jobs for Life program. Although a class had already started, Ron told Jennette to stop by and they would do everything they could to help her. She was accepted into the program and started the next day.

Through the program, Jennette has learned computer and software skills such as Excel, interview skills, how to write a business plan, budgeting, problem solving and more.

“They (FTC) equip us with the skills we need to succeed,” said Jennette. “It doesn’t come easy though. The program takes real commitment. I highly recommend the program to anyone. You just have to apply yourself.”

“The people are so loving and caring,” said Jennette. “They’ve given me hope, skills and confidence. They want to see me meet my goals.”

Jennette has a long-time dream of owning a food truck one day and is working at two local restaurants to learn more about the food business. The dream began in prison and gave her something positive to hold on to. “Her dreams were on her future,” said June. “She never gave up hope. Having a dream made a big difference.”

June is a retired psychologist and used to work in a prison. “You’ve gotta give them hope,” said June. “Negative thinking pulls them down and increases their chances of returning to prison.”

June believes in Jennette and talks about her enthusiastically. “She is an amazing and exceptional woman,” said June. “For her to come out the way she did is a miracle. Her attitude is good, and she continues to grow. She’s quite a catch for an employer.”

Jennette gives credit to her successful transition to June, FTC and God. “June is instrumental in where I am today,” said Jennette. “I’ve made big strides, and my faith has gotten stronger. It (FTC) is God based and anything that God blesses puts me on the right path.”

Director’s Corner

Roger and I have lived in Fort Worth for the past 25 years, but have just recently relocated to



Diann Lewis

Granbury/Hood County to the De Cordova area. Our decision to relocate was influenced by the amazing community and our involvement in United Way and other organizations here in Granbury.

I have participated in the United Way Campaigns for over 20 years through The Kroger Co., but not until I was assigned to our store in Granbury did I get actively involved with the United Way. I was asked to be on the board of directors about three years ago, and it’s been a great three years.

I had never had the chance to be so involved in an organization, let alone one that does as much for a community such as United Way of Hood County. It has been such a rewarding experience for me personally, and I am grateful everyday for the opportunity to serve this great community.

I have been with Kroger Co. for 30 years, starting as a deli clerk and working my way to store manager. While working at Kroger, I met my wonderful husband of 23 years, Roger. We have four children and eight amazing grandchildren who are the light of our lives. We are so excited to be part of this generous community as we start the next leg of our journey through life.

100+ Women Strong

100+ Women Strong unite to support United Way

Nearly 50 Hood County women gathered together for the first time at Farina's on the Granbury Square in May to kick off the creation of a new group to help advance the mission and vision of United Way of Hood County - 100+ Women Strong.

The idea for the group was the brain child of Marilyn Luton, a longtime supporter of United of Hood County and past board president.

The concept is simple: Gather a group of civic minded women who care about the community in which they live and want to help build it stronger.

The event is laid-back and fun, where women can connect with old friends and make new ones while helping the community. The women donated nearly \$7,000 at the inaugural May event.

The next 100+ Women Strong event will be Thursday, Sept. 14 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Barking Rocks Winery. For more information call 817-579-5100 or email office@unitedwayhoodcounty.com.



Former United Way of Hood County Executive Director Toni Brown Belew joins in the fun at the inaugural May event of 100+ Women Strong and still supports the local organization.

Calendar of Events

Cancer Care Support Group

Granbury Office
201 E. Pearl St., Suite C
August 2, 1:30 p.m.
September 6, 1:30 p.m.

Operation School Supplies Distribution and Resource Fair

Granbury High School
August 8, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

United Way of Hood County 100+ Women Strong

Barking Rocks Winery
September 14, 6 to 9 p.m.

Texas Giving Day

northtexasgivingday.org
September 14, all day

UWHC Granbury Game Show Extravaganza and Fundraiser

Granbury Resort Conference Center
October 12, 6 p.m.

Cancer Care "Gospel Jubilee"

Granbury Live
August 19, 6 p.m.
Tickets: \$20
Call Joyce Pence 817-279-2234 or
Patsy Parr 817-578-9001 or go to
www.thenewgranburylive.com

ED, continued from pg 3

all take part in debrief discussions sharing the impact of the unique experience.

The simulation will be open to anyone who would like to take part. We will be looking for many volunteers and participants, as well as sponsors. This would be an excellent opportunity for small employee or church groups to experience together and share. It is only through recognizing poverty in our own community and working together to address it that we can truly make a difference here in Hood County. If you would like more information or would like to be added to the event communication list for this event, please contact the UWHC office at 817-579-5100

100 + Women Strong

Women, continued from pg 3



Pictured from left and clockwise: Carrie Bellamy, Tammy Anderson, Patsy Hurd, Janet Lell, Jan Caldwell-Hulett, Kathy Mobly, Eva Gregory, Brenda Coffman, Sara Galvan.



Pictured from left and clockwise: Mary Booth, Tina Rickenbrode, Barbara Townsend, Kelly Staley, Jo Ruth Sandel, Jane Mouhot, Mel Birdwell.



Pictured from left and clockwise: Lori Abbott, Becky Mauldin, Michelle Northcutt, Madison Northcutt, Kristi Dobbins, Angela Parker.



Pictured from left and clockwise: Sylvia Hickey, Stacy Dolan, Diana McBride, Janice Horak, Cynthia Hawkins, Judy Gentry (hidden) Kelly Lambert, Karen Barton .



Pictured from left and clockwise: Lula Pope, Diann Lewis, Patti Shafer, Trish Reiner, Amber Ross, Traci Harper, Brenda Wilkinson, Toni Brown-Belew.



Pictured from left and clockwise: Cindy Peters, Claudia Southern, Jan Horner, Marilyn Luton, Carol Walton, Julie Graham, Lisa Johnson, Janice Overstreet, Suzy Tabor, Freddie Crawford.

**MAKE A
BIG
IMPACT!
HELP SUPPORT
THESE PARTNER
AGENCIES:
(2017)**

Boys & Girls Club of Hood County

Camp Fire First Texas

Cancer Care Services

Child Study Center

Forward Training Center

Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains

Hood County 4-H

Hood County Children's Charity Fund

Hood County Christmas for Children

Hood County Committee on Aging

Kids Armor of Hope

Miracle League of Granbury

Mission Granbury

Operation School Supplies

Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center

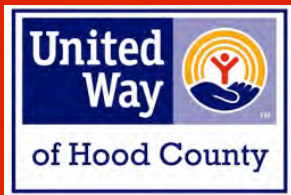
Rainbow Room

of Hood & Somervell Counties

Ruth's Place Clinic

Star Council on Substance Abuse

Texas EMS



DONATION CARD

Donate online at www.unitedwayhoodcounty.com

or clip and mail this card to United Way of Hood County, PO Box 1611, Granbury, TX 76048, or call 817-579-5100.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

CC# _____

Exp _____ CSV _____

Email _____

Donation Amount _____

Cash Check Credit Card Bill Me

OUR VISION

To increase the organized capacity of people to care for one another in Hood County

OUR MISSION

To meet current and emerging needs in Hood County that are best met through voluntarism by uniting contributors, providers and users of human services in a voluntary and cooperative effort through fund raising campaigns, programs, planning and evaluation, and distribution of funds to participating agencies.

Executive Director: Becky Mauldin

Board of Directors: Doug Dobbins (President), Diann Lewis (President Elect), Tina Rickenbrode (Treasurer), Bryan Bufkin, Jan Caldwell-Hewlett, Doug Davis, Judy Gentry, Ron Holmgreen, Shirley Hooks, Diann Lewis, Monty Lewis, Brooke Montoya, Jane Mouhot, Michelle Northcutt, Nancy Pricer, Tina Rickenbrode, Amber Ross.

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