

Kent County News

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News

United Way kicks off its 54th annual campaign

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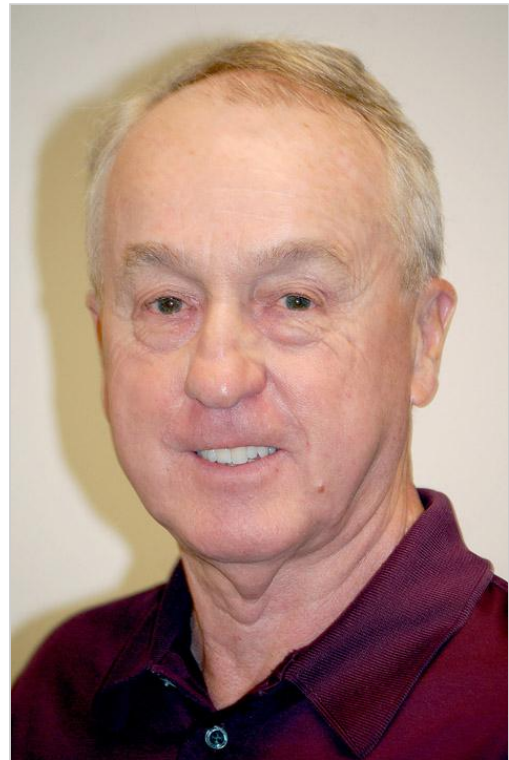
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CHESTERTOWN The United Way of Kent County will launch its 54th annual campaign today with four new non-profit member agencies, board president Bill Noll announced this week.

"An increase in community support this past year has made it possible for The Good Neighbor Fund, Townsend Memorial Clinic, Playmakers Summer Camp and Rebuilding Together to join the 19 local non-profit organizations currently receiving United Way support," Noll said. "Local United Way member agencies cover a broad spectrum, which includes emergency services, crisis intervention, investment in youth, and fostering self-sufficiency," Noll added.

Emergency services include the Red Cross of Delmarva; The Community Food Pantry; the Salvation Army; Samaritan Group, the county's only emergency shelter for individuals and families; the Good Neighbor Fund; and Townsend Memorial Clinic.

Crisis intervention member agencies are For All Seasons, a licensed outpatient mental health clinic; Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence, whose services include counseling and shelter, as well as legal assistance in English and Spanish in custody, divorce and abuse cases; Community Mediation Upper Shore offers an alternative to court proceedings in family and neighborhood disputes, participates in school interventions, and trains young people in dispute management; St. Martin's Ministries provides shelter for homeless women and children with education, counseling, and other support services to enable them to live independently.



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Investing in Youth programs include Boy Scouts Del-Mar-Va Council; Girls Scouts of the Chesapeake Council; Echo Hill Outdoor School, offering exploration of area waterways and environment; Horizons Student Enrichment Program, a six-week summer program for students K-through-4 from low income families which features academic enrichment and recreation; Character Counts! Kent County, in which volunteer mentors encourage high standards of character and receives United Way funds to support an annual essay contest involving hundreds of students; Playmakers Summer Camp at Prince Theatre, where United Way funds provide scholarships for low income Kent County children.

Under fostering self-sufficiency are Camp Fairlee Manor, an Easter Seal facility for handicapped and chronically ill persons and their families; Epilepsy Association of the Eastern Shore, with services for those suffering from handicapping conditions; KART - Kent Association of Riding Therapy for adults and children with physical and mental challenges; Kent Center which serves adults with developmental disabilities, enabling them to work as fully as their capabilities permit, in addition to Day programs, supported employment, residential support and transportation, Kent County Adult Medical Day Care where United Way funds provide special meals, events and trips, and Rebuilding Together which, through work of volunteers, repairs and refurbishes homes of families who cannot afford the work themselves.

The selection process for which local organizations apply for funds is detailed, long and careful, Noll said.

United Way board members review all applications to ensure they adhere to United Way non-profit requirements. A board selection committee then schedules interviews with representatives of each of the applicant organizations that fit the county's needs and priorities, decides which would most benefit from United Way funding, and, selects Member Agencies for the coming year. Member Agencies are not carried over each year; they must reapply annually for consideration, Noll said.

Along with donations by individuals, United Way's Partnership with Business program includes several ways that local companies participate, including payroll deduction programs, matching contributions, annual contributions, and being charity event partners.

The United Way website, unitedwayofkentcounty.org contains a list of member agencies and their contacts, as well as additional descriptions of those agencies' special services and newsworthy events.

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