



# YOUR CONNECTION



Real People, Real Caring, Real Results...what matters.™

January 2008

Join us for the 2008 Annual Meeting and help us celebrate 50 years of United Way in Pitt County

Tuesday,  
January 29, 2008  
12-1:30 p.m.  
Cornerstone Baptist Church  
\$15/person  
Annual Report  
Volunteer Awards  
2008 President and Board Members

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**YOUR CONNECTION**

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If you have ideas for future issues of Your Connection, or to contribute an article for consideration, contact Lindsey Brown.

## REYNOLDS WINS 2008 TOYOTA COROLLA

Susan Reynolds could hardly contain her excitement as she ran down the red carpet, hoping her key would start the new 2008 Toyota Corolla. Reynolds, Week 8 finalist, who had plans to choose key number 8, decided at the last minute to choose key number 13. "I had already decided that I would pick key number 8, since that was the week I was drawn," said Reynolds. "But, my husband kept telling me to choose number 13, and at the last minute I decided to take his advice." As luck would have, Susan's husband was right all along and lucky key number 13 started the engine of the brand new 2008 Toyota Corolla. Both Reynolds' husband and daughter were on hand to celebrate with her.

The car giveaway was part of the United Way of Pitt County's end-of-campaign celebration, hosted at

Greenville Toyota on Dec. 1.

The event was open to the public and the showroom housed over 50 guests.

One of the biggest highlights of the afternoon occurred when the owner of Greenville Toyota, Craig Goess, gave away the 2008 Toyota Corolla on behalf of UWPC.

A \$100 donation qualified individuals for the drawing. In order to win the car, each finalist selected a key of their choice from a pegboard and were given the chance to test their key in the ignition.

Reynolds, an employee at Pitt County Memorial Hospital was overwhelmed and very grateful. She plans to upgrade to a 2008 Camry. Greenville Toyota allows the winner to drive away in the



Susan Reynolds picks lucky key number thirteen from the rack and wins the 2008 Toyota Corolla from Greenville Toyota.

2008 Corolla or apply the \$15,000 value to an upgraded vehicle. Reynolds exclaimed, "I have always wanted a Camry, so what better time than now to have my dream car!"

Special thanks to Craig Goess for giving away the car on behalf of UWPC. The Toyota Drawing has added a new excitement to the annual campaign!

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Happy New Year! The Board and staff of the United Way of Pitt County hope that 2008 will be a year filled with peace and joy, with purpose and progress for each of you and for all our Pitt County Community.

≈ AND ≈

Happy Birthday to us! – the volunteers, agencies, donors, staff and community supporters who are and have been OUR UNITED WAY OF PITT COUNTY for the last 50 years. I often wonder what was in the mind of our

first President, E.E. Rawls, as he presided over the meetings of the newly formed Board of Directors in 1958.

✦ Did he envision a dynamic organization capable of responding to the tragedies the likes of a Hurricane Floyd?

✦ Did he ever imagine the thousands of volunteers – from children to senior citizens – who would mobilize themselves in Days of Caring, as mentors, scout leaders, tutors, or meals-on-wheels drivers?

✦ Did he see the potential for millions of dollars to support the

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## DIRECTOR'S CORNER


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day-to-day efforts so many agency partners? Did he foresee all of the changes that would propel Pitt County forward, from a cozy, country culture to a hub of medical, educational, and technological leadership?

I doubt it. But does it really matter? – For in the midst of all of the changes, challenges and opportunities our county has experienced since 1958, your United Way has moved, changed and met those challenges with compassion, caring and commitment for the benefit of all our neighbors.

Today we are still moving forward – implementing a Community Action Plan model that will put us in collaboration with the very best resources Pitt County has to offer, to address the ROOT causes of the issues we face as a community. He may not have foreseen the potential for making the lasting changes that this approach provides, but he would have been just as hopeful and committed as our incoming Board of Trustees. Yes, Happy New Year and Happy Birthday!

Sincerely,



## BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE TO END CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

In 2000 the National Alliance to End Homelessness released a groundbreaking strategy: **A Plan, Not a Dream: How to End Homelessness in Ten Years.** This strategy challenges every community in our country to change the way it does business – to shift our efforts *from managing the issue to ending homelessness.* Since then more than 400 communities across the nation have become engaged, including nearly 20 in North Carolina.

The Pitt County Commissioners and the Greenville City Council joined ranks in 2006 when each body adopted a resolution to commit to developing a PITT COUNTY 10 Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness. Our community takes its first important step on Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup> when more than 50 community members convene as the Blue Ribbon Task Force. Rev. Albert Shuler and Robert J. Thompson are serving as the co-chairs. The Task Force's ten-month process will include a series of meetings, focus groups, public forums and research. The result will be a practical, results oriented plan that meets the needs of the Pitt County community.

This is a substantial undertaking. It will challenge our current thought processes and practices, and will require input from all segments of the community. But when the goal is reached, we will have an action plan to redirect, minimize, and ultimately resolve the substantial economic and social costs associated with chronic homelessness and the individuals, children and families who suffer these ill-effects most.

As a part of the effort, UWPC is lending its professional staff talent, volunteer expertise, and a break-through grant to help ensure the Task Force's success. This is, after all, what we mean by "going after the root causes of issues" and making "lasting community change to improve people's lives". We will keep you up-to-date via our newsletter and our website which will link you to the Task Force website so you can keep track of progress and events.



## LOOK WHO'S NEW...

### John Bulow Joins UWPC

John Bulow has been named the new Community Impact Associate for UWPC.

In his new role, Bulow will assist with the organization's new focus on the Community Action Plan.

Prior to joining UWPC, Bulow served as the Deputy County Manager for Pitt County. He retired in October of 2006, after 22 years in that position, but isn't planning to slow down. In addition to his new role at UWPC, Bulow also serves as an Adjunct Professor in the Department

of Political Science at East Carolina University, teaching Public Administration.

"I am really excited to join the staff of UWPC" said Bulow. "I worked with health and human service agencies throughout my tenure as Deputy County Manager, so I feel like this is an extension of my career. I also wanted to work somewhere that I knew I could be involved in the community and make a difference at the same time—and United Way is that place."



"John began the beginning of the New Year," said Marilyn Williams, UWPC President. "Just in time to help UWPC take the important next steps in Community Action. His experience, including serving on the UWPC Board, and breadth of knowledge and relationships will bring even more energy to our organization."