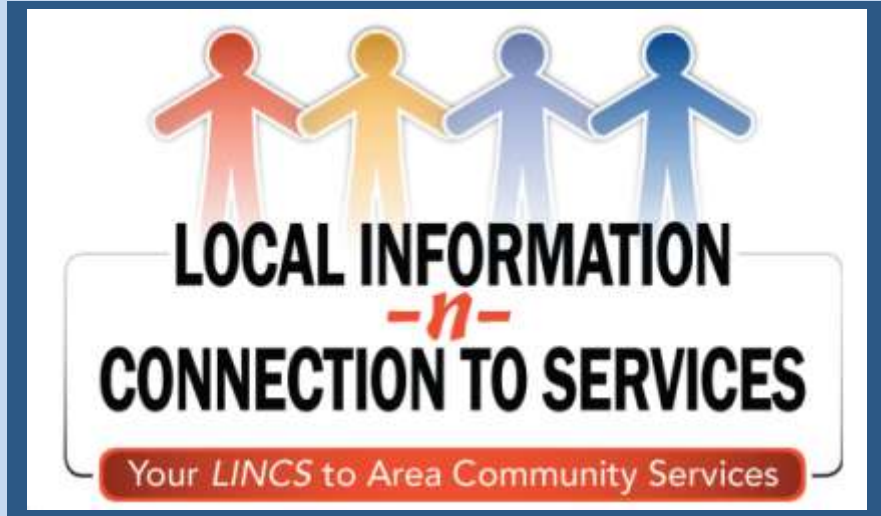


LINCS August Newsletter



Welcome to the LINCS newsletter!

The purpose of the LINCS newsletter is to help keep you updated on changes that are happening with agencies and programs throughout Muscatine.

We hope that this will allow all of you to stay better connected and to be more efficient since you won't have to spend your valuable time tracking down this information yourselves.

Of course, the only way that this information will make it into the newsletter is

if we know about it. So if you have changes going on in your own office send us an email and let us know. That way we can include them in the next newsletter! Also contact us with any suggestions for layout or content.

To contact LINCS

by phone at 563-263-5963 or

by email at:

lincs@unitedwaymuscatine.org

Program Spotlight: Day of Caring – September 21, 2011

This year marks United Way's 5th annual Day of Caring. Each year the number of volunteers and projects has grown, from just a few hundred volunteers the first year to roughly 800 last September.

Of course, none of this is possible without the help of local businesses and service agencies. The Day of Caring committee has been making phone calls and contacting businesses and agencies to bring in more projects and teams to make this year even bigger. You may have already received information about Day of

Caring. If you haven't, there is still time to submit a project or to join a team. Projects are a great way to get work done at your agency that you normally wouldn't have the time, labor, or resources to complete. No project is too big or too small.

We would like to have project forms submitted by August 24th and teams registered by August 31st. For more information contact Sarah Ott at 263-5963.

2011 UNITED WAY COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS

United Way of Muscatine is proud to announce our grants to the following agencies for 2011:

American Red Cross

Boy Scouts

Family Resources

Flickinger Learning Center

Girls Scouts

Lutheran Services in Iowa

MCSA

Mississippi Valley Child
Protection Center

Muscatine Community Y

Muscatine Legal Services

The Salvation Army

Senior Resources

Trinity Muscatine Public Health

To learn more about our investment in these agencies, click [here!](#)

Upcoming Events

The **Muscatine Community Y** is offering a 4-part **Back to School workshop** on **Wednesday** evenings **starting on August 24th**. The series will cover Establishing Routines, Family Health Issues, Parent/Teacher Communication and Afterschool Programs. Contact **Holly Brugman** at **263-9996** or stop in at **1823 Logan Street** to find out more.

The **Muscatine Municipal Housing Agency** is providing **free homeownership classes** on **September 3rd** and **10th** from **8am – Noon** at the **Sunset Park Learning Center** that teach you how to become a homeowner. In addition, those who complete the classes could qualify for **\$1000 in down-payment assistance** if they are buying a home in Muscatine County and are below 80% of the median income. Call **Chad Yocom** at **264-0667** to reserve a spot.

Muscatine Community College will be offering two **GED** series at **MCSA** during the Fall. The **Monday/Wednesday** sessions will be **9am to Noon** and the **Tuesday/ Thursday** sessions will be **6-8pm**. There will be **orientation** for M/W on **September 7th at 9am** and T/Th on **September 8th at 6pm**. Contact **Caryn Kelly** at **288-6166** for more information.

There will be a **Community Block Party** on **Friday, September 9th** in the **Y parking lot** from **5:30-7:30**. This **free** event is open to the public and will feature fun activities, games and treats. There will be popcorn, tacos, sno cones, cotton candy, balloon animals, a clown, live animals, a fire truck and much more! Almost 30 organizations involved in putting this event together. Come join the fun!

Iowa State University Extension is scheduling a 5-week course on **Financial Coaching**. This course will help non-profit groups assist clients with financial management. The course cost is \$60. If you are interested in signing up or partnering with ISU Extension to offer the course, contact **Phyllis Zalenski** at 319-462-2791 or zalenski@iastate.edu.

Muscatine Statistics (as of publication)

Free/ Reduced Lunch Rate: 48.63%

Unemployment Rate (Musc. Co.): 6.5%

Households Receiving Food Assistance: 3228

Staff Changes

Judy Deaver is the new Center Supervisor for the **Head Start** and **Early Head Start** programs in Muscatine. Judy replaces Rebecca Bovenmyer who is working out of one of the Davenport centers.

Bob Koepping is new as the **Home Repair Specialist** at Senior Resources. Contact Bob at 263-7292.

Kim Warren is United Way's new **Marketing Manager** (kim@unitedwaymuscatine.org). She will be helping us prepare our campaign, the United Way newsletter and other marketing materials.

Sarah Off is the new **Volunteer Engagement Manager** here at United Way. You can contact her at sarah@unitedwaymuscatine.org. She'll handle Day of Caring in addition to the Volunteer Center.

Goodwill Vouchers

United Way of Muscatine has access to Goodwill vouchers for the local Goodwill store. To qualify for these vouchers, clients need a referral from any social service agency. This is as simple as a phone call or note from the agency telling of the client's need. All requests for Goodwill vouchers go through Shane Orr with United Way's LINC'S program.

Some things to note about the vouchers:

- Vouchers can be used for clothing and shoes only, not household goods or other items that Goodwill sells.
- Vouchers are in \$10 increments and no change will be given back.
- Vouchers are good for 7 days from the date they are picked up.
- Tuesdays are 25 cent day at Goodwill.

The hope is that this newsletter will provide you with valuable information on the changes that are taking place in agencies and programs throughout Muscatine. Feel free to forward this newsletter to anyone who might find it useful. To be added to the mailing list, please contact lincs@unitedwaymuscatine.org with your email address and contact information.