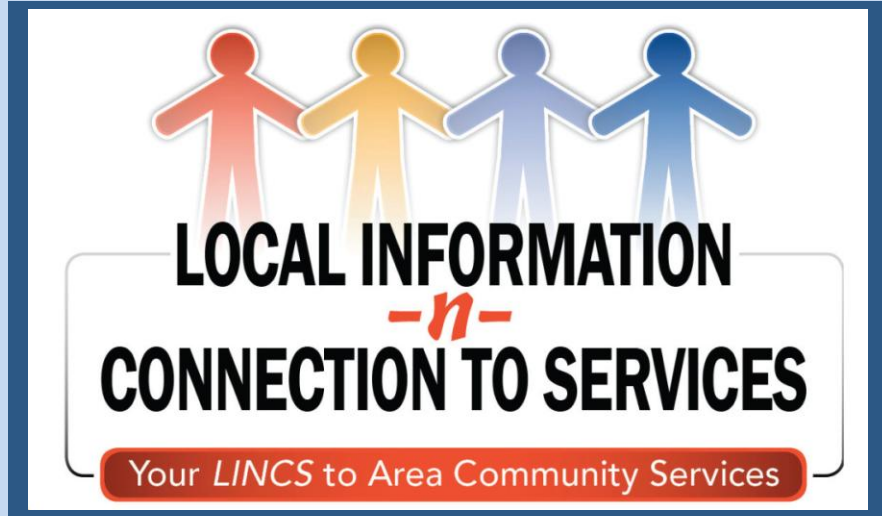


# LINCS June Newsletter



## 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](mailto:lincs@unitedwaymuscatine.org)

## Program Spotlight: Muscatine Community Volunteer Solutions

United Way of Muscatine's volunteer center, Muscatine Community Volunteer Solutions, has a new way to connect community volunteers with available opportunities. They now have their own web portal!

If you are an individual who would like to volunteer, you can register on the site. After filling out some basic information, you can personalize things by choosing the types of volunteer opportunities you are interested in. You can also view available opportunities and connect directly to agencies or

programs in town in need of your assistance. Even better is that the site allows you to log your volunteer hours. You can then view a history of your volunteer efforts at any time.

If you are an agency, you can register on the site and then post up-to-date volunteer opportunities within your organization. The site can help put you in touch with volunteers specifically looking for opportunities that you are offering. You can take a look at the volunteer site [here](#). Or call Brianne at 563-263-5963 for more information.

## 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 **Kids First Vintner's Dinner** originally scheduled for August 20<sup>th</sup> has been changed due to some conflicts. This will now be held on **Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>** at the **Clarion Hotel** in **Muscatine**. Watch for more information on this event in an upcoming newsletter.

On **Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>** from **6:30-8pm** there will be a free workshop to answer your **general legal questions** regarding family law, including divorce, custody agreements and child support. Your questions will be answered by Jeff Cook. Childcare will be provided for children 8 or younger. This workshop is being held in the **Muscatine Community Y Parlor Room** at **1823 Logan Street**.

**Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup>** is **Special Olympics Night at the River Bandits**. For just **\$3** you can support the program by purchasing a ticket to watch the **QC River Bandits** take on the Cedar Rapids Kernels at **7:05pm**. Ticket sales will be matched by **Thrivent Financial** to benefit the Special Olympics. Stop at the **Muscatine Community Y** to purchase your tickets.

**June 25<sup>th</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup>** is **PatriART Week**. It's a time to celebrate the arts and culture in Muscatine. There are many events planned for the week, including a **Family Bike Ride**, a **Civil War Encampment** and many other **Civil War exhibits**. It ends with the **4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade** and **Fireworks**. For a complete list of all activities, please click [here](#).

The **Muscatine Municipal Housing Agency** is providing **free homeownership classes** on **July 16<sup>th</sup>** and **July 23<sup>rd</sup>** 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 **\$2000 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 Statistics (as of publication)

**Free/ Reduced Lunch Rate: 48.63%**

**Unemployment Rate (Musc. Co.): 6.8%**

**Households Receiving Food Assistance: 3193**

## United Way Staff Contact

While Sharon Gibson-Ellis is no longer at **United Way of Muscatine**, staff is still available to answer any questions you might have or to handle your other requests. Contact us at **263-5963** or at the email addresses below:

Becky Hagerty – Office Manager  
[becky@unitedwaymuscatine.org](mailto:becky@unitedwaymuscatine.org)

Brianne Fitzgerald – Volunteer Engagement Mgr.  
[Brianne@unitedwaymuscatine.org](mailto:Brianne@unitedwaymuscatine.org)

Shane J. Orr – Information & Referral Specialist  
[lincs@unitedwaymuscatine.org](mailto:lincs@unitedwaymuscatine.org)

## Summer Lunch Program

This summer the Food and Nutrition Departments for the Muscatine School District are again offering a summer meal program.

All children ages 2 to 18 can eat lunch at one of five meal sites for free until **July 29<sup>th</sup>**. Adults can eat for \$3.

In addition to the meals, local agencies are providing activities or informational programming during many of the lunches. If you would like to volunteer or sponsor a program, please contact **Alisha Eggers** at **263-7223**.

### Lunch Sites and Times:

Cedar Park Apartments	11:30-12:30
Central Middle School	11:30-12:30
Garfield Elementary	11:30-12:15
Madison Elementary	11:30-12:30
Washington Elementary	11:30-12:30

*Lunch is also available at select other sites to children based on program participation.*

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](mailto:lincs@unitedwaymuscatine.org) with your email address and contact information.