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RESOURCE GUIDE



Shirley Thorton
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RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES

People throughout Tampa Bay benefit from a wide spectrum of services provided by United Way or dozens of human services agencies funded by United Way dollars. Tens of thousands receive assistance including housing, health care, education & literacy efforts, food & nutrition, elder services, child & youth programs, aid to the homeless and more. Your donation is transformed into valuable resources and opportunities in Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties.

Financial Stability

Where to Go for Financial Information

United Way provides an award-winning Web portal, **MyFamilsFuture.org**, to the region as a reliable, non-commercial financial information resource. It contains tools and guides families and individuals facing difficult economic challenges. Discover data on credit, budgeting, tax returns, saving for a home, and much more. Log on to this valuable resource at www.myfamilsfuture.org

Free Tax Preparation and Education

Qualifying adults can receive free tax preparation assistance and education through the Prosperity Campaigns of Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties -- funded in part by United Way of Tampa Bay. Learn to increase your income and build your savings through the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit refunds. Free tax preparation is available at dozens of locations throughout Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties. Find tax preparation sites at www.unitedwaytampabay.com.

DID YOU KNOW?

Through the 2008 Prosperity Campaign:

- Volunteers prepared more than 13,000 returns.
- 37 locations in Hillsborough & Pinellas Counties served as free tax preparation sites.
- \$11.8 million was returned to low- to moderate-income working families in the region, helping deserving people and the Tampa Bay economy.

Help Spread Literacy.

A \$30 donation provides a child one book a month for an entire year. A \$150 donation provides a child books for five years. Donate online at www.unitedwaytampabay.com/imaginationlibrary or call at 813-272-5017 for other payment options.

Children and Families

Early literacy is a key component to prepare children for success. Statistics show that 75 percent of school dropouts report reading problems. And at least half of adolescents and young adults with criminal records have reading difficulties. United Way is here to help those in our community succeed with two literacy-focused initiatives— **Imagination Library** and the **Children's Book Drive**.

Imagination Library

United Way of Tampa Bay, in partnership with eight community organizations, launched Dolly Parton's **Imagination Library** in 2006. The program puts free books in the hands of children from birth through kindergarten and provides companion parental resources. Each child born in Hillsborough County after September 1, 2006, can receive one free book each month in the mail. Parents can call 813-272-5017 to register their child or go to: www.unitedwaytampabay.com/imaginationlibrary

DID YOU KNOW?

- Seven out of ten fourth graders cannot read at grade level.
- More than 4 in 10 preschoolers, 5 in 10 toddlers, and 6 in 10 babies are not read to regularly.
- Through United Way of Tampa Bay's *Children's Book Drive*, more than 300,000 books have been collected since 2006.
- United Way of Tampa Bay launched the *Summer Care Initiative* in 2005. As a result, more than 2,200 children, ages 5-13, have received free child care during the summer in an enriching, safe environment.

Children's Book Drive

Engage your workplace and support literacy at the same time. Participate in United Way of Tampa Bay's Annual **Children's Book Drive**. Each year, more than 100,000 books are distributed to thousands of area students, to school libraries and classrooms. Taking part in the Children's Book Drive is fun and easy. Contact your Relationship Manager for more information.

Summer Care

The United Way of Tampa Bay's Women's Leadership funds a **Summer Care** program for youth ages 5-13. The program supports low- to moderate-income families with summer child care so parents can continue to work or continue their education. For additional information contact the **Summer Care** program coordinator at 813-274-0936.



2008 Day of Caring

2,000 volunteers from 89 companies across Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties joined together on 130 service projects.

Make a Difference, Volunteer

United Way's Volunteer Tampa Bay helps volunteers get involved and make a difference in others' lives and the community.

HandsOn Tampa Bay

Looking for a team building project? Short on time but still want to lend a hand? We can help you help others. **HandsOn Tampa Bay** (HOT) is a great way to connect with your community. HOT provides individuals and groups with busy lifestyles an opportunity to help in the community through short-term volunteer projects.

For a nominal fee, HOT's Corporate Services can coordinate convenient on-site volunteer education and orientation and develop group projects for your company. To learn more about HOT and volunteer opportunities, contact the HOTline at 813-274-0934 or visit: www.volunteertampabay.com

Caring, All in a Day's Work

As part of United Way's **Day of Caring**, volunteers paint, landscape, offer computer services, read to kids, and visit shut-in seniors, among a myriad of other projects. Each October, United Way of Tampa Bay provides an opportunity for people to unite and make a difference in the community. To get involved, contact United Way's **Day of Caring** program manager at 813-274-0908.

To learn more and get involved:

Visit United Way of Tampa Bay's Web site at www.unitedwaytampabay.com

Not sure where to turn? Call 2-1-1.

2-1-1 is the only 24-hour program that provides information and referrals on local health and human services, volunteer opportunities, donation referrals, and crisis intervention and problem-solving counseling for individuals. Dial 2-1-1 to get connected today.