

When Doris Sylvester volunteered to become treasurer of the Helping Hand Clinic, it was largely because she enjoyed working with numbers.

But now, five years later, she feels compelled to give roughly 20 hours a week of her time because of the clinic's critical mission — to provide

free health care to uninsured neighbors facing serious illnesses. "Some people here are in dire need," Doris says, "and this is just a wonderful way to help."



SPRING 08 :: No. 1

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finally, one family is truly home

While shooting a photo of Precious Sie-Duke and daughter Jhordan outside their new home, a neighbor walks up. "You would not believe," he says, "how many pictures have been taken of that house already."

It's true. The new homeowner came by every day during construction to watch her family's future rise from the soil. Now, she has an album full of photos. And a stable home for her 4-year-old daughter.

"I always wanted to put down roots," Mom says, still emotional about the blessing. "I just wanted Jhordan to have a place to grow up, like I did."

When conventional mortgages didn't work out, once even falling through at the closing, she turned



to Brick Capital Community Development Corp. The United Way agency helped arrange the \$20,000 down payment and brokered a rural development loan through Capital Bank.

The new house has

changed their lives. The very first night, Jhordan wandered up to bed and slept quietly through until morning.

Precious was stunned; that never happened before. Clearly, she says, they were finally home.

Brick Capital Community Development Corp.
403 W. Makepeace St.
Sanford
919.775.2300

Working with public and private investors, Brick Capital provides affordable housing for families and develops projects to revitalize local neighborhoods.



bellamy leaves 'give-away' with a new car

As the final name was announced, scores of guests erupted loudly in cheers, but Marilyn Bellamy simply closed her eyes and took a deep breath. She had just won a brand new Chevrolet HHR in Automobile Give-Away '08, a promotion to benefit the United Way of Lee County.

About 70 semifinalists were on hand, all selected in preliminary drawings from a much-larger pool of entrants

who made a qualifying pledge during this year's campaign — contributing either the equivalent of one hour's pay per month for the year or making an annual donation of \$500 or more.

Though Marilyn left with the car, offered in partnership with Wilkinson Cadillac Chevrolet Pontiac Buick GMC of Sanford, all semifinalists took home a prize of their own, thanks to generous donations from

businesses throughout the community.

She was thankful, Marilyn said, but wanted everyone to know she didn't make her donation just for a chance to win the car. She wanted to help out the community.

Marilyn's history proves her generosity toward others is genuine. As it turns out, she's made a "fair share" gift annually for the three decades she's worked at Moen.

211 provides help when it's needed most

Not too long ago, trying to find help quickly, when some catastrophe hit unexpectedly, was a real challenge.

Where, exactly, do you turn for emergency food? How can you find personal counseling, or routine health care, or employment, or housing?

It was hard enough for someone who knows the area already. But, now, imagine you've just moved here and don't know much about the

community at all.

Problem solved. Free and confidential referrals are now just a phone call away, thanks to North Carolina 211, a project of the United Way.

By dialing 2-1-1 from any landline phone — at any time, day or night — callers can learn from bilingual advisors where to get help.

From a cell phone, the number's 1.888.UW211NC, and information is available on

the Web at www.nc211.org.

More than 140 calls were received from mid-September, when the service was launched, through February.

About half of all callers were requesting temporary financial assistance for housing or utilities. The rest were equally divided among requests for housing, emergency food, job training or employment assistance, and prescriptions or medical care.



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▶ youth turned from gangs

Gerranda LeFlore, former girlfriend of Tookie Williams, who co-founded the notorious Crips street gang in Los Angeles, visited Sanford Jan. 7 to steer youth away from the violent gang life.

Both her public talk and private meeting with the youth were part of Gang Prevention and Awareness Night, sponsored by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Sanford/Lee County.

▶ thrift shop help is needed!

If you have some spare time to give, the Christians United Outreach Center Thrift Shop can use your help.

Volunteers are needed to work Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Store proceeds are used to pay the rent and items are donated to needy clients. Contact Susie Dixon at 919.775.1829 or cuoc1@alltel.net.

▶ children get easter baskets

Children spending Easter at Central Carolina Hospital enjoyed a brighter holiday when a group from the Center for Independent Living delivered baskets packed with activity books, toys and candy.

People at the center donated money used to purchase the gifts as a way to enrich the community. And, word has it they're already planning baskets for Christmas.

\$30

the cost of a specially-tuned radio allowing visually-impaired neighbors to hear local newspaper articles, grocery ads, national magazines and even popular novels read ... for free.

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former miss america visits Sanford to support United Way

Shawntel Smith Wuerch, Miss America 1996, visited Sanford earlier this year to draw the winning name in Automobile Give-Away '08 and lend her support for the United Way and its two dozen member agencies serving neighbors in Lee County.

Her appearance drew plenty of attention. Not only from local media conducting interviews, but also from enthralled children — and adults! — who got a chance to meet a celebrity and even try on the legendary crown.



UPDATE ON THE UNITED WAY :: JAN HAYES hold on! we're starting to roll again



If it seems like you've been hearing a lot more about the United Way lately, it's probably no illusion.

Over the last several months, we've been reshaping the entire organization to become a more effective force in the community.

That means raising more money for agencies serving our neighbors, of course, since that's our main responsibility. But it also includes finding

real needs that might not be quite as obvious and offering tangible, practical help for social service groups doing the work day by day.

Some of what we've been doing is already visible. "Neighbors" this new quarterly newsletter, is one example, and Automobile Give-Away '08, which we plan to offer again next year, is another.

But there's still more to come. Right now, we're

conducting a community survey to learn what you need from your United Way, and we've been working with a strategic planner to decide how we should proceed over the next four to five years.

This is not merely window dressing or some academic exercise. We're serious about making a positive impact on our community, and we're gaining momentum. Now, we just need you to join us!

dates

▶ **May 7.** Salvation Army Golf Classic at Tobacco Road. Proceeds from the four-person, captain's choice event provide camp scholarships for local children. \$60 per person or

\$240 per team. For details, contact the Salvation Army at 919.718.1717.

▶ **May 15-16.** Phenomenal Girls Circle Training. Free two-day sessions for nonprofits help you work

effectively with teenage girls. Contact Tonya Newell, Boys and Girls Clubs of Sanford/Lee County, at 919.776.3525.

▶ **May 16-18.** Bats for HAVEN. Proceeds from the

double-elimination softball tournament benefit HAVEN in Lee County. \$150 team entry fee includes T-shirts and awards for top teams. Contact Deanna Stoker at 919.774.8923.

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

Cuándo Doris Sylvester se ofreció a ser tesorera del Dispensario "Helping Hand," fue en gran parte porque ella disfruta trabajar con números. Pero ahora, cinco años más tarde, ella se

siente obligada a dar aproximadamente 20 horas a la semana de su tiempo a causa de la misión crítica de dispensario — proporcionar asistencia médica libre de costo a

vecinos no asegurados que enfrentan enfermedades graves. "Algunas personas aquí están en una necesidad horrible," Doris dice, "y esto es apenas una manera maravillosa de ayudar."



finalmente, una familia local es sinceramente en casa

Mientras tomaba una fotografía de Precious Sie-Duke y su hija Jhordan fuera de su nuevo hogar, un vecino se les acerca. "Usted no creería," él dice, "cuántos retratos han sido tomados de esa casa ya."

Es verdad. El nuevo propietario venia todos los días durante la construcción a mirar el futuro de su familia subir desde la fundación de la tierra. Ahora, ella tiene un álbum repleto de fotos. Y un hogar fijo para su hija de 4 años de edad.

"Yo siempre quise dejar raíces," Mamá dice, todavía emocional acerca de la bendición. "Yo sólo quise que Jhordan tuviera un lugar para crecer, como yo tuve."

Cuándo hipotecas convencionales no trabajaron, una vez que fracasando en el cierre, ella busco ayuda del Centro de Desarrollo de la Comunidad "Brick Capital Community Development, Corp." La agencia de Fondos Unidos ayudó a arreglar \$20,000 para el desembolso inicial y tomo un préstamo rural del

desarrollo por el Banco Capital.

La nueva casa ha cambiado sus vidas. La primera noche, Jhordan vagó hasta la cama y durmió calladamente hasta la mañana.

Precious estaba aturrida; eso nunca habia sucedido antes. Claramente, ella dice, ellos estaban finalmente en casa.

Brick Capital Community Development
(Desarrollo Principal de la Comunidad)
403 W. S. de Makepeace • Sanford
919.775.2300

▶ 2-1-1 les proporciona ayuda a vecinos cuando más lo necesitan

¿Cuándo inesperadamente nos golpea alguna catástrofe, a donde exactamente, usted busca alimento de emergencia? ¿Cómo puedes encontrar consejos personales, cuidado de salud rutinarias, empleo o vivienda?

Las referencias gratis y confidenciales están ahora apenas una llamada telefónica, gracias a Carolina del Norte 2-1-1, un proyecto de Fondos Unidos. Llamando al 2-1-1 de cualquier teléfono de casa

— a cualquier momento, día o noche — personas que llaman pueden aprender de consejeros bilingües donde conseguir ayuda.

Desde un teléfono celular, el número es 1.888.UW211NC (892.1162), y la información está disponibles en la página web; www.nc211.org.

Más de 140 llamadas fueron recibidas a mediados de septiembre, cuando el servicio fue lanzado, hasta febrero.

▶ Jóvenes en contra de las pandillas

Gerranda LeFlore, ex novia de Tookie William, quien co-fundo la pandilla notoria de calle "Crips" en Los Angeles, visitó Sanford en Enero 7 en dirigir la juventud lejos de la vida violenta de pandilla.

Su discurso público y reunión privada con la juventud formaron parte de la Prevención de Pandillas y la Noche de Reconocimiento, patrocinado por el Boys and Girls Club "Clubes de Chicos y Chicas" de Sanford/Condado de Lee.