

If the doors are open — and, often, even if they're not — Tony Ciaravino is busy at the Christians United Outreach Center. Ministry coordinator Grace

Aiken, who calls Tony “a gem,” says the volunteer has distributed food nearly every day for years and has made life better for countless people. “I feel

blessed that I have time on my hands,” Tony says. “I see that we do a lot of good work for a lot of people. I feel like the good Lord put me in this spot.”



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‘a very crucial time for me’

The five years Natoskia Adams spent at the Boys and Girls Club seemed like a lot of fun at the time. And it was. She fondly recalls camping, learning all about banking on a field trip to First Union and even landing her first job at the club.

Looking back, though, Natoskia believes those experiences did nothing less than change her life forever.

“That was a very crucial time for me,” she explains. “Being a member of the Boys and Girls Club affected me drastically. I received many opportunities that I would have never gotten the chance to experience.”

The young girl who grew up at the Garden Street Apartments in Sanford used those opportunities to build a bright future. She



enrolled at North Carolina A&T State University, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in English and is just one course shy of another in Elementary Education.

Now, she’s changing lives, herself, by teaching kindergartners in Durham, even while making plans to

attend graduate school.

There’s no doubt, such success is due to her own diligence and hard work. But Natoskia also gives a lot of credit to the Boys and Girls Club. “I learned many life lessons,” she says, “that have helped me to become the person I am today.”

In the photo.

Trey Je Buchanan, a 10-year-old current member of the Boys and Girls Club, spends some time on homework.

Boys and Girls Clubs of Sanford/Lee Co.
1414 Bragg Street
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By offering educational and recreational activities after school and during the summer months, the Boys and Girls Clubs help local youth enjoy a brighter, more successful future.

preschoolers learn about 'planes, trains and automobiles'

They may not have thought much about transportation before, but about 300 preschoolers spent the summer learning how people get from one place to another, thanks to a summer reading series sponsored by The Coalition for Families.

Volunteers spent Thursday mornings reading books on this year's theme, 'Planes, Trains and Automobiles and Other Things That Go.' After enjoying each story, the three- to five-year-olds got their own chance for artistic expression,

composing drawings or short stories based on what they heard.

The Lee County Library assisted, too, compiling a bibliography on this year's transportation theme that parents can use to continue reading back at home.

Kristy Arey, who coordinates the effort, says the goal isn't just to learn about cars or trains. The real purpose is to get preschoolers interested in reading. And based on their curiosity this summer, she says, the effort was a big success.



Zariana Baker, left, and Zachary Vasquez



Lainey Brand and Jasmine

4-H 'summer fun' provides new life experiences

Lainey Brand may have been the one actually enrolled in "All About Town," one of 13 classes offered as part of this year's 4-H Summer Fun. But she wasn't the only one to benefit from the experience.

So did Jasmine and her four-footed friends at Carolina Animal Rescue and Adoption.

When Lainey's class chose to visit the animal shelter and volunteer their time as a service project, Jasmine got a

cool, relaxing bath out of the deal, while the young students got something even better — new skills and a rewarding experience.

About 90 young people participated, says Bill Stone, who directs the effort. Classes ran the gamut — from the ever-popular American Red Cross Babysitter's Training Course to sessions on sewing and quilting, environmental science, consumer marketing,

pet care, horticulture, cooking and even golf.

Local volunteers pitched in to teach the classes, and all were invited back in August for games and a big cookout.

"We strive to provide classes for young people that are both fun and educational," says Stone. "Hopefully all of our 4-H Summer Fun participants are able to take with them skills they can utilize for a lifetime."

▶ 211 available by cell phone

Finding emergency housing, food or routine health care is even easier — now that free information and referrals are available 24/7 by dialing 211 on your cell phone.

The bilingual service opened on landline phones earlier this year, but was recently expanded to cell phones, too, thanks to a generous grant from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina.

▶ 'barney fife' visits sanford

David Browning, The Mayberry Deputy, will be the keynote speaker Aug. 26 at this year's United Way Pacesetters breakfast.

Browning is well known for his impersonation of Barney Fife from TV's "The Andy Griffith Show," and his appearance at the campaign kickoff event is sponsored by WFJA Oldies 105.5 FM/WWGP America's Best Country 1050 AM.

▶ beginning @ home

Local success stories, emerging community needs and trends in charitable giving will be featured in "beginning @ home," a new newspaper column by United Way executive director Jan Hayes.

If you have any suggestions for the column, slated for publication in The Sanford Herald on the first Thursday of every month, contact Jan at 919.776.5823.

\$10

the cost of providing food, shelter and staff support services for three days to a family of three fleeing domestic violence — thanks to Haven of Lee County.

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get ready! the popular automobile give-away will return this year

One lucky United Way contributor will be driving a brand new car in January, when Automobile Give-Away returns for its second consecutive year. Anyone making a qualifying pledge during this year's campaign will be eligible to enter. Stay tuned for more details about the contest.

Automobile Give-Away '09 is offered in partnership with Wilkinson Cadillac Chevrolet Pontiac Buick GMC of Sanford.

Semifinalists gather before the car drawing in January



UPDATE ON THE UNITED WAY :: JAN HAYES it's time to make ourselves even better



This is an exciting time of year. Businesses crank up after a leisurely summer. The new school year brings fresh opportunity. Families make plans for months to come.

In some ways, fall brings the same kind of renewal as the new year. We all get a fresh start. A chance to make ourselves and our businesses even better than before.

But it doesn't stop there. Fall also gives us the chance

to make our entire community stronger, more vibrant, and that all begins on August 26, when a Pacesetter Breakfast kicks off the United Way's annual campaign.

I can almost hear some reactions: This is just a pitch for donations. Well, your contributions are critical, but it's truly not about the money. It's about making Lee County a better place to live — for all of us, especially at a time when

the economy is making life very hard for many.

Your contributions will be used *by your neighbors to help your neighbors*. They'll make your life better, too, by helping families become more self-sufficient. And by helping us solve some of our most pressing community needs.

Please participate in this year's campaign. It's not just about the money. *It's about what we do to help ourselves.*

dates

▶ **August 21.** Wine Tasting Benefit for Southeastern North Carolina Radio Reading Services. An evening of smooth jazz, "poetry bar" and tasty selections from Duplin Winery serve

as a fundraiser to keep this important service on the air. Ambiance Entertainment Venue, Fayetteville. \$25 per person or \$40 per couple. 6:30 p.m. Call 800.313.7007 for tickets or information.

▶ **August 26.** United Way Pacesetters Breakfast. David Browning, aka The Mayberry Deputy, brings his popular "Barney Fife" impersonation to help kick off this year's annual campaign. The breakfast

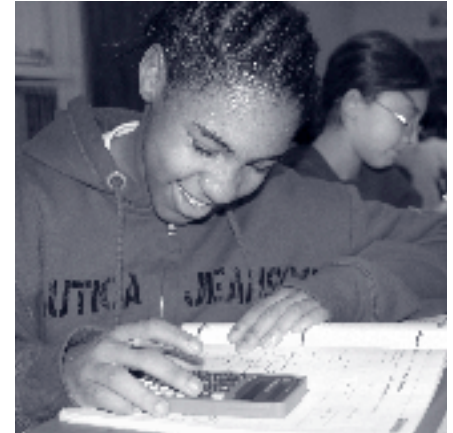
honoring companies helping "set the pace" for this year's fundraiser is hosted by Central Carolina Hospital. 8 to 9:30 a.m. For details, contact the United Way at 919.776.5823 or info@leecountyunitedway.org.

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

Si las puertas están abiertas — a menudo, aun si no están — Tony Ciaravino está ocupado en el Centro Cristianos Unidos. La coordinadora de el ministerio

Grace Aiken, dice que Tony es “una joya,” el voluntario ha distribuido alimento casi todo los días durante muchos años y le hecho la vida mejor a muchas personas.

“Me siento bendecido que tengo el tiempo,” dice Tony. “Veo que hacemos mucho trabajo bueno para mucha gente. Me siento que Dios me puso aquí.”



‘ era un tiempo muy crítico para mí ’

Los cinco años Natoskia Adams paso en el Boys and Girls Club fue de mucha diversión. Ella cariñosamente recuerda los viajes de campo, el aprendizaje del uso de un banco cuando visito el Banco First Unión y hasta conseguir su primer trabajo en el club.

Mirando hacia atrás, Natoskia cree que aquellas experiencias no hicieron nada menos que cambiar su vida para siempre.

“Era un tiempo muy crítico para mí,” explica ella. “Ser un miembro del Boys and Girls Club me afecto drásticamente.

Recibí muchas oportunidades que yo nunca habría conseguido la posibilidad para experimentar.”

La muchacha joven que creció en los Apartamentos de la Calle Jardín en Sanford usó aquellas oportunidades para construir un futuro prometedor. Ella se matriculó en la Universidad de Carolina del Norte y la Universidad del Estado A&T donde ella saco una licenciatura en Inglés, y casi la licenciatura en Educación Elemental.

Ahora, ella cambia vidas, dando clases de kínder en Durham, mientras

hace planes de asistir la escuela de graduado.

Sin duda, tal éxito es debido a su propia diligencia y esfuerzo. Pero Natoskia también le da mucho crédito al Boys and Girls Club. “Aprendí muchas lecciones de la vida,” dice ella, “me ha ayudado a hacerme la persona que soy hoy.”

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▶ 211 disponible por teléfono celular

Encontrando el alojamiento de emergencia, el alimento o la asistencia médica es aún más fácil — ahora que la información y el servicio es gratis las 24 horas y disponible 7 días de la semana, marcando el 211 en su teléfono celular.

El servicio es en español y en inglés abierto en la líneas terrestre telefónica este año, fue ampliado recientemente a teléfonos celulares, también, gracias a la generosa subvención de Blue Cross and Blue Shield de Carolina del Norte.

▶ los niños disfrutan leyendo

Aproximadamente 300 alumnos pre-escolares aprendieron todo sobre el transporte este verano en una serie de lectura ofrecida por la Coalición para Familias.

Todos los jueves los voluntarios les leían libros por la mañana y después de los cuentos, los niños formaban dibujos o cuentos pequeños sobre lo que ellos oyeron.

La coordinadora Kristy Arey dice que el objetivo era interesar a niños en la lectura, y esto fue un éxito grande.

▶ La juventud tiene ‘diversión de verano’

Cuando Marca de Lainey le dio un baño a Jazmín, una perra que vive en Carolina Rescate de Animales y Adopción, esto ue parte de su proyecto de servicio en la 4a Diversión de Verano de este año.

Aproximadamente 90 personas jóvenes se matricularon en clases de cuidado de niños, cocina, costura, ciencia, mercadotecnia, cuidado de animales, horticultura y hasta golf.

Las clases dada por los voluntarios les enseñaron a los jóvenes habilidades valiosas que ellos pueden usar toda su vida.