



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

January 28, 2019

Program

Vice-President Javon Daniel introduced our speaker, tonight, Ms. Becky Goff, Director of United Way of Cullman County. Becky is originally from Ohio, having come to Cullman a couple of years ago, where she quickly assumed her current job. She has 30 years of experience in United Way. Her organization partners with 17 other agencies within our community. To “partner” means that United Way helps financially and with available volunteers and agency staff on occasion. These partners should be very familiar to members since we have had speakers from nearly everyone of them in recent years, and our Club has also directly supported them. They include:

Cullman Caring for Kids, our local Red Cross, The Good Samaritan Clinic, The Commission on Aging, Hospice of Cullman County, Hope Horses, Saving Forgotten Warriors, Victim Services, Youth Advocate Program, and others.



Vice-President Lion Javon Daniel and President Lion Mike Ponder, flanking tonight’s speaker, Ms. Becky Goff.

Ms. Goff explained that before an organization is accepted as a partner by United Way, it is thoroughly vetted by providing detailed financial statements and references. She further explained that United Way is very much a volunteer driven organization and could not function without them. It’s only paid-staff are Becky, an administrative assistant, and an accountant. Lion Javon has served as a member of its Board of Directors (all volunteers); Lions Austin Monk and Josh Speakman volunteer their time as members of its Young Professionals Board. Last year United Way helped over 22,000 people, or 1-in-5 citizens of Cullman County.

If you or someone you know ever need help or information, like, where the nearest tornado shelter is located, or who can help someone who is being abused, you should call United Way’s 211 hot-line number. It was established to provide someone on standby, 24/7, to help folks quickly find support in a time of need. The most financially devastating event in our recent history was not the tornado of 2011; it was the hail storm of March 19th, last year. Many business, homes, and vehicles were badly damaged or destroyed. Becky said that they had many, many people calling for help with broken windshields who could not safely drive their cars to get to work, to the doctor, to the grocery store, or to school. The focus of United Way’s efforts is on improving circumstances of the less fortunate by assisting with education, financial security, and health. One



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criterion that it considers in applying its resources is in filling gaps that other local safety nets miss. Replacing windshields of the working-poor certainly fit this criterion. After careful vetting of individuals, United Way replaced over 200 windshields; our Club made a funding contribution to United Way for this effort, also.

Not only does United Way get its resources (it gave \$250,000 back to the community last year) from contributions, it also sponsors fund-raising events. Becky announced 2 such events: An upcoming all-you-can-eat Crawfish Boil on April 17th at Goat Island Brewery, and also the Annual Letter-carriers Food Drive on May 11th (everyone is asked to leave a can or non-perishable food item in their mail box for their letter-carrier to collect for the food bank).

United Way does a fantastic job by any measure and is always looking for volunteers; you can call 211 to do so.

Other Business

Lion Jim Walker's funeral was held Saturday January 26. Lion George Krigbaum injured his back and ask us to keep him in our prayers.

Lion Vice President Javon Daniel received a membership recruiting pin from Lions International for bringing two new Lions into our Club.

Our meal next Monday night will be a breakfast meal with the usual related selections. Lion Dennis Berse announced

that if anyone cannot handle that for health issues, they should contact him. He will arrange for you to have a Chef's salad, instead.

Upcoming Programs and Events



Ms. Candace Lingo from CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates).

Feb 4: Ms. Candace Lingo of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates).

Feb 11: Mr. Tyler Newman and Ms. Heather Gable of the Cullman County Youth Advocate Program.

Feb 18: No meeting. Eat across the street in support of the empty bowls dinner.

Mar 9: Fish and Ham Dinner at the Cullman Middle School cafeteria.

Tale Twister Input

If you need something special or to report a correction in the *Tale Twister*, see Lions Carey Thompson or Don Smith at the meetings. Lion Carey can be reached at 256-739-0580 (H) or 256-426-3207 (C). Lion Don can be reached at 256-737-7433 (H) or 256-426-7722 (C).