



November 2011 |

Issue 3

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United Way of
Champaign County



REACH OUT A
**HAND
TO ONE**
INFLUENCE
THE CONDITION
OF ALL.
GIVE. ADVOCATE.
VOLUNTEER.
LIVE UNITED
United Way

ECL Alumni | Quarterly Newsletter

On Wednesday, November 2nd at the annual Pillar Celebration event, United Way had the distinct honor of hosting a nationally recognized business leader, author and Army combat veteran - Wes Moore.



Wes Moore and Danielle Wilberg
ECL Alumni

His speech was absolutely incredible and very inspiring to those youth who attended as well as solidifying the great work that happens among our Pillar donors of United Way. Wes emphasized that his book titled [The Other Wes Moore](#), has several great messages to inspire many, but simply that everyone in this world has an expectation and opportunity to make a difference in the life of another. Public service should be a way of life for everyone.

"The United Way is one of these organizations that has a history of doing good work around the country," Moore said. "The United Way also has enough of a bully pulpit to be able to get more people involved in the larger conversation. The only way we are able to be



**HOW TO
LIVE UNITED:**
JOIN HANDS.
 OPEN YOUR HEART.
 LEND YOUR MUSCLE.
 FIND YOUR VOICE.
 GIVE 10% GIVE 100%
GIVE 110%.
GIVE AN HOUR.
GIVE A SATURDAY.
 THINK OF ME BEFORE ME.
 REACH OUT A HAND TO ONE AND
 A HUNDRED
INFLUENCE
 THE CONDITION OF ALL.
 GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.
LIVE UNITED.

successful is if we are willing to live united and understand just how little separates us from all the others out there in our society."

It was very interesting to hear Wes talk about growing up in Baltimore and how you are persuaded by your surroundings and environments to do bad things in life and make bad decisions. However, this doesn't mean that those people are waste-aways or not capable of being a productive citizens. Most of the time, criminals are extremely smart and if there was ever the early opportunity to guide their talents, leadership and skills in a positive way, their lives may have taken another direction as it did for one Wes Moore. Someone believed in him and gave him a chance.

I hope that each one of you can continue to make a difference in our community and be a positive role model for someone.

[See Wes's interview with WILL Radio](#)



Pam Hulten

United Way of Champaign County

connect & serve

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The holiday season is almost upon us. Please keep your eye out on the cuvolunteer.org website for the latest and most current volunteer opportunities. There will be a handful of toy drives going on, the Salvation Army always needs Bell Ringers, Crisis Nursery will be running their annual Holiday Shop and more! There are several churches and organizations who also work together to provide Thanksgiving baskets and full meals for those who don't have families to be with. Closer to Christmas several non-profits will have adopt a family programs to help purchase gifts for those who simply can't afford otherwise.

One big opportunity to volunteer with United Way is just around the corner. Every two years, the non-profits who receive program funding from United Way fill out applications to receive funding. We utilize well over 100 community volunteers to help us with Program Funding Review where you will serve with several other

community leaders to review program applications, visit the non-profit organizations and meet with the staff and directors to evaluate their proposals.

If you are interested in becoming a Program Funding Review Volunteer, please email [Bev Baker](mailto:Bev.Baker@unitedway.org)

Stay CONNECTED with United Way:

Emerging Community Leaders

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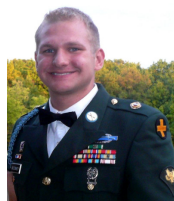
United Way of Champaign County

Follow us on 

lead

Spotlight on ECL Alumni and **Tribute to Veterans**

As a part of our Alumni spotlight for this November edition, we would like to thank all of those military veterans who have served or currently serving. We congratulate and honor all of our Emerging Community Leaders who are veterans!



Stephen McConkey from Champaign served in the Illinois Army National Guard from September 2002-2010. During his enlistment he was deployed to Iraq with the 2/130 INF. for an 18 month tour. While in Iraq Stephen served as an infantry man, patrolling around Baghdad and Taqqaddam. With support from the Champaign community Stephen passed out school supplies, shoes, hygiene items, and stuffed animals to the children of Iraq. In 2007 Stephen was chosen to represent his company for the soldier of the year competition, which tests a soldier's knowledge skills and abilities in a physical and mental competition. After three competitions Stephen was named Illinois State Soldier of the Year and went on to represent Illinois in a three day competition against the other state soldiers from the Midwest.

In 2010 Stephen graduated Magna Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in Fire Service Management from Southern Illinois University.

Currently Stephen is a Champaign firefighter, and enjoys going to the local schools to teach children about fire safety. As a member of Champaign firefighters local 1260 Stephen serves on the executive board as shift 1 steward. Stephen is also the Muscular Dystrophy Associations fill the boot coordinator, honor guard member, serves on the Political Education Committee, and has served on various other committees for local 1260.



United Way board member **David Wetherell** (picutred with son, Sam) has served in the United States military since December 2000. He received his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in April 2010 and recently returned from a 12 week long training course for his current position as the Budget Officer for the 183rd Air Operations Group, in the Illinois Air National Guard. Prior to his commissioning, he served with the 1544th Transportation Company in the Army National Guard for 9 years. He deployed to Iraq from 2004-2005 where he served as a convoy commander with the mission of providing convoy security in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. David concluded his Army service as a Platoon Sergeant for the 1544th.

In addition to his involvement with United Way, David also serves on the board of directors for the Champaign-Urbana Schools Foundationas a member of their finance committee.

Do you know an ECL Alumnus that should be highlighted in our newsletter? Please send us your suggestion! Email [Pam Hulten](#) of United Way or ECL Board Member, [Lindy Brown](#).

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