

# Volunteers Speak about Their Careers and Guide Hundreds of Local Students



*Some Lafayette High School students recently met for Breakfast with the Experts as arranged through United Way Speakers' Bureau. Groups of students from all three middle schools and from most of the junior highs have learned from people who work in a variety of jobs in our community this school year.*

During the past school year, dozens of volunteers who work in St. Joseph have spoken with hundreds of students through United Way Speakers' Bureau.

According to Jodi Bloemker, United Way Director of Community Investment, the program came about two years ago in response to teachers' desires to connect with people from the community who work in a variety of careers to help students as they consider their own future career paths. The program is part of United Way Profit In Education® that aims to improve the education level of the potential and current workforce.

Through United Way Speakers' Bureau, adults representing different trades and professions share with students about their employers. They talk about different careers available with their businesses, training and education required for jobs at their workplaces and employer expectations. Presenters emphasize the importance of a high school diploma. They also discuss such topics as reliability, attitude, honesty, appearance, proper technology usage, volunteering and drug testing.

In line with its goal, the program has been exposing students to diverse careers in our community and helping them learn what it takes to secure particular positions.

More than 200 Benton students, freshmen through seniors, have learned about careers in their field of interest from people who do just that kind of job every day. "I especially liked that students also heard over and over the importance of soft skills like working on a team, communicating well and attitude," said Karrie Engel, Benton High School Counselor.

People who are interested in volunteering to be part of United Way Speakers' Bureau, sharing with students about their business and career if called upon, can email [jodi.bloemker@stjosephunitedway.org](mailto:jodi.bloemker@stjosephunitedway.org) or call 364-2381 to learn more.

## Opportunities to Remember

**May 1**—Register to attend May 4 Reflections of Hope Luncheon and Saint Teresa Awards at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. \$25 per ticket. RSVP to Elaine with Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph, 390-4040.

**May 1-3**—Sponsor a team for May 12 Safety Town Charity Golf Classic Tournament, afternoon, at Moila Shrine Country Club. For more information and to register, call 233-3330.

**May 1-14**—Register a team to Bowl For Kids' Sake on May 18 and 19 at Belt Bowl, a fundraiser for Big Brothers Big Sisters. Call 671-4090.

**May 2**—Free Conscious Discipline® training for parents of young children, "If Only I Could Find the Right Consequence: Secrets and Myths of Effective Consequences." McCarthy Baptist Church, 2710 S. Belt Highway, 6-8 p.m. Light supper begins at 5:30. Childcare available with reservation as space permits. RSVP to 364-2381.

**May 6**—United Way Success By 6® Family Fun Time activities, games and a free book after the Apple Blossom Parade, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Coleman Hawkins Park for children, ages six and under and their parents and caregivers. Questions? Call Jay at 364-2381.

**May 10**—Taste of United Way with lunch and presentation about Community Missions (CMC), one of 18 United

Way Partner Agencies, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. No cost. RSVP in advance, 364-2381.

**May 27**—Stay fit with YMCA Parkway 5K Walk/Run beginning at 8 a.m. (\$25) or with Bill Hurley Memorial Family One-Mile Fun Run/Walk at 9 a.m. (\$15) at Krug Park. Register in advance at the YMCA, 233-9622, or at 7 a.m. on race day for an extra \$5 per person.

**May**—Register children, ages 4 through 7, for May or June sessions of Safety Town to help them learn to be safe. Register at [stjoesafetycouncil.org](http://stjoesafetycouncil.org) or 233-3330. \$30 for preschoolers/\$45 for school-age children, \$5 more after May 10.

**May**—Register children, ages 5-12, for a summer camp through the YMCA. Day, resident or specialty camps available. Call 233-9622.

**May**—Reserve a seat for June 15 YWCA Women of Excellence Awards Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., at Civic Arena, featuring Col. Grace Link, Director of Staff for the Missouri Air Guard. \$40 per person. Call 232-4481 or click the event calendar at [ywcasj.org](http://ywcasj.org).

**May**—Register as a volunteer to read with students 45 minutes a week once or several times from May through July, conduct a book drive or donate books to be given to local elementary-age students. Call about United Way Reading Adventure, 364-2381.

**United Way of Greater St. Joseph**

You are invited to GIVE, ADVOCATE and VOLUNTEER through United Way to improve lives in Northwest Missouri and Northeast Kansas.

United Way of Greater St. Joseph supports 18 Partner Agencies and operates seven Initiatives.

(816) 364-2381  
[stjosephunitedway.org](http://stjosephunitedway.org)

### 7 United Way Initiatives

- FamilyWise® Prescription Assistance
- Financial Stability
- Leadership St. Joseph
- Profit In Education®
- Success By 6®
- Unmet Needs Committee
- Volunteer Center

### 17 Partner Agencies

Bartlett Center	Northwest Missouri Community Services
Big Brothers Big Sisters	Pony Express Council, Boy Scouts of America
Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Inc.	St. Joseph Safety & Health Council
The CENTER, a Samaritan Center	The Salvation Army
Children's Mercy Hospital	Specialty Industries of St. Joseph, Inc.
Community Missions (CMC)	United Cerebral Palsy of Northwest Missouri
Family Guidance Center for Behavioral Healthcare	YMCA
InterServ	YWCA
Legal Aid of Western Missouri	