

# United Way of South Hampton Roads



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### Community Comes Together for a Day of Caring and Addresses Oral Health Need

*Hampton Roads, Virginia- August 23, 2010-* An annual *Day of Caring* brings the community and businesses together through volunteerism to meet needs of South Hampton Roads.

This year marks the 19<sup>th</sup> annual *Day of Caring* with the United Way of South Hampton Roads (UWSHR) on September 10, 2010 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

*Day of Caring* promotes the spirit and value of volunteerism, increases the awareness of local human service agencies and schools, as well as demonstrates how people working together for the good of the community can accomplish great things. There are more than 1,700 volunteers that will complete over 100 projects in the cities of Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Virginia Beach, Suffolk and the county of Isle of Wight.

One special project comes from a UWSHR initiative and partnership with Landmark Communications and Access Partnership at Western Tidewater Free Clinic (WTFC) in Suffolk. Landmark approached UWSHR wanting to address a direct need in the community, and with 30% of South Hampton Roads population's lack of dental access the answer was clear.

WTFC opened in 2007 and provides high-quality, non emergency health care to the residents of Western Tidewater who cannot otherwise afford it. The clinic operates solely on donations and volunteers. Currently, over 200 people are on the waiting list to determine their eligibility and many of their current patience have gone years without any dental treatment. They hope to serve over 50 patients with the help of two donated Navy vans along with dental and medical volunteers.

To learn more about the Oral Health Initiative, contact Suzanne Higgs at 757-853-8500 ext. 125 or [shiggs@unitedwayshr.org](mailto:shiggs@unitedwayshr.org). All media interested in attending the event should contact Miriam Beiler, at 757-923-1060 ext. 7001 or [mbeiler@wtfreeclinic.org](mailto:mbeiler@wtfreeclinic.org).

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#### About the United Way of South Hampton Roads

United Way of South Hampton Roads is a local, autonomous nonprofit organization run by a volunteer board of directors representing all areas of the South Hampton Roads community.

We solve community problems by supporting programs and services across the area that help people turn their lives around.

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