

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

January

- 24-26 "Here to There: A Short Play on Transportation @ Various Locations & Times (see below)
- 24 Service-Learning Workshop @ UVSC Student Center, 10 am – 12:30 pm
- 25 Provo Reads Workshop @ Provo City Library, 7 – 9 pm
- 25 Community Action Winter Masquerade Ball *Dancing for Charity* @ Historic County Courthouse, 8 –12 pm

February

- 2 Diabetes Expo @ Sandy South Towne Exposition Center, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
- 21 Connections Council @ Habitat for Humanity ReStore, 3 pm

"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."

-Henry Ford

February's Host:

**Habitat for Humanity
ReStore**
626 N. Freedom Blvd.
Provo, UT

**Thursday, February 21
3 pm**

D I D Y O U K N O W ?

- Mercury thermometers are a common source of household mercury contamination. In order to properly dispose of these thermometers, the Utah County Health Department is participating in an exchange program. Bring in a coupon and your old mercury thermometer, and the health department will replace it with a new mercury-free thermometer. You may pick up these coupons and informational brochures for yourself or for your agency at the United Way office.
- February 9 is "Give a Kid a Smile" Day. Community Health Connect has 10 appointments available for low-income or uninsured kids between the ages of 6 and 10 who need dental care. Call Danelle at 429-2029 for more information.
- Students from BYU will be performing a short play about transportation in the valley. The stories have been collected from many different groups—senior citizens, students, people with disabilities, drivers, walkers, and bus commuters. The purpose of the play to build awareness and explore theater's potential to explore community issues. The play is free and open to the public.
 - January 24 @ Farrer Elementary, 6:30 pm
 - January 25 @ BYU Nelke Experimental Theater, 7:30 pm
 - January 26 @ Provo City Library, 2 pm (There will be a "parade" from the library to Gallery 110 where there will be an art show on the theme of transportation.)

**United
Way**



**United Way of Utah County
Information & Referral**
P.O. Box 135
Provo, UT 84603

CONNECTIONS



AN INTERAGENCY NEWSLETTER FROM UNITED WAY OF UTAH COUNTY

JANUARY 2008

RISE

RISE is a nonprofit organization that specializes in home and community-based support services for children and adults with developmental and other disabilities, children with mental health challenges, and aging adults. RISE works on the philosophy that people with disabilities can and should be a part of the community around them. For 20 years, RISE has been creating opportunities for and with people with disabilities, their families, and the men and women who work in the direct care profession.

RISE has a network of hundreds of direct support professionals working with people with disabilities and their families to help create and sustain the lives they want to live in their homes, families, and in the community. This includes supporting people in daily living activities, providing companionship, accompanying them to community events, teaching skills, supporting or customizing employment, and coordinating foster parenting.

Specialists at RISE provide behavior counseling, therapy, medical assistance, and other services. Levels of support are tailored to people's needs and service hours range from a few hours a month to 24 hours a day. Levels and type of service are specialized for the

needs of the individual. Specialists aim to focus on a person's strengths, helping them feel loved and accepted.

With this philosophy, RISE gives individuals the freedom to express their true self. From its inception, RISE has been associated with some of the most creative and innovative programs and ideas for supporting people with disabilities and their families. One of RISE's largest services is the family support

program. RISE works with families to develop a service package that is based on the specific needs and desires of the family and the person. Services include respite care, after school and summer programs, behavior consultation, therapy programs, and nursing services. The program also helps families manage the pressures of having a child with disabilities.

Referrals to RISE come from the Division of Services for People with Disabilities. When people are referred to RISE, a representative visits the family or individual. Together, the representative and the family select RISE services that fit the family's needs.

For more information about RISE, call 373-1197 or visit www.riseinc.net.



Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program

The VITA program is designed to help low- and middle-income individuals file their taxes for free. In order to qualify for this free tax assistance, an individual's total household income must be below \$40,000 a year.

Volunteers are trained to prepare taxes and help participants take advantage of special tax credits, such as the earned income tax credit.

VITA not only ensures that individuals and families are not spending hundreds of dollars they don't have on paid tax help, but it also brings thousands of dollars back into these same households through tax refunds and credits.

If you qualify for assistance through the VITA program or would like more information for clients at your agency, contact a VITA specialist by dialing 211 or 377-6600.

Connections is published by United Way of Utah County 211 Information & Referral. Individuals who receive *Connections* are asked to share the newsletter with others within the office who work with clients or make referrals to other human service agencies. Feel free to post the newsletter in your office or distribute it at staff meetings. Please send any information to be published in *Connections*, including calendar items, by the 15th of each month to United Way of Utah County 211 Information & Referral, P.O. Box 135, Provo, UT 84603 or connections@unitedwayuc.org or call 377-6600.