SUMMIT GOALS

The Re-Imagining Out-of-School Time: A United Way Thought Leaders Summit is an opportunity for national leaders working across sectors in the field of out-of-school time to engage in a dialogue on the importance of out-of-school time as a strategy to support student success, with a focus on middle grade success and high school graduation. Panelists will discuss some of the latest developments in out-of-school time: Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM), summer learning, college and career readiness, workforce development, innovative partnerships, and strategies for engaging youth. United Ways will highlight the increasing systems building role that they are playing in their communities to increase program access, quality, and sustainability.

AGENDA

8:30 am  INFORMAL NETWORKING BREAKFAST

9:00 – 9:25 am  WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS
Stacey D. Stewart, President, United Way U.S.A.
Erin Gollahofer, Community Relations Senior Specialist, jcpenney

9:25 – 9:30 am  ORGANIZATION ROLL CALL

9:30 – 10:30 am  HELPING YOUTH REACH THEIR POTENTIAL
Salome Thomas-El has devoted his life to ensuring that every child is a success and able to overcome barriers based on the caring support of adults in their lives. He will speak on his belief that “every child needs someone to be crazy about them,” and how out-of-school time programs and providers play a role in student achievement.

Keynote Speaker:
Salome Thomas-El, Head of School, Thomas Edison Charter School

Introduction:
Ayeola Fortune, Director, Education Team, United Way Worldwide

10:30 – 10:45 am  MORNING BREAK

10:45 – 11:55 am  BUILDING A FUTURE WORKFORCE: OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Success in today’s 21st century global economy requires academic knowledge and workforce skills, including critical thinking, creativity, innovation and teamwork. Panelists will discuss how out-of-school time opportunities can support the development of these skills, and help middle and high school students shape career pathways.

Session Panelists:
Cheryl Oldham, Vice President, Institute for a Competitive Workforce, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Ken Smith, President and Chief Executive Officer
Jobs for American Graduates, Inc.

Lidia Soto-Harmon, Chief Executive Officer, Girl Scouts Council of the Nation's Capital

Helen Soule, Interim Executive Director/Director of State Partnerships, Partnership for 21st Century Skills
Introduction:
Peter Beard, Senior Vice President, Impact Priorities
United Way Worldwide

Session Moderator:
Jose-Luis Mejia, Youth Adult Engagement Coordinator
Transitional Age Youth San Francisco

12:00 – 1:10 pm
MOTIVATING YOUTH TO REACH THEIR PERSONAL GOLD STANDARD

Dominique Dawes, former Olympic Gymnast, works to promote healthy eating and active lifestyles in youth to build self-esteem and combat the growing obesity epidemic. She will speak about how out-of-school time opportunities can help to increase personal determination and motivate youth to stay active and healthy.

Keynote Speaker:
Dominique Dawes, History-Making Olympian

Moderator:
Stacey D. Stewart, President, United Way U.S.A.

1:15 – 2:30 pm
ENGAGING AND DEVELOPING YOUTH: THE ROLE OF OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME

Young people are the experts on how they want to be engaged when they are not in school. In this panel, youth will share the out-of-school time experiences they have had that have made a difference in their overall development and school experiences. Practitioners will share emerging promising practices for serving older youth.

Session Panelists:
CITIZEN SCHOOLS
Holden Pierre, Student, Bunker Hill Community College
Michael Kubiak, Director of Research and Evaluation, Citizen Schools

HIGHER ACHIEVEMENT
Jasmine Clark, Student, Trinity Washington University
Katherine Roboff, Senior Director of Programs
Higher Achievement DC Metro

THE AFTER-SCHOOL CORPORATION
Sherry Bossard, Middle School Student
Saskia Traill, Vice President, Policy & Research
The After-School Corporation (TASC)

Session Moderator:
Jairus Cater, Student, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

2:30 – 2:40 pm
AFTERNOON REFRESHMENT BREAK

2:40 – 3:55 pm
LEARNING FROM THE FIELD: THE ROLE OF UNITED WAYS IN STRENGTHENING OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME (CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS)

United Ways across the country are engaged in community outreach and coalition-building focused on out-of-school time. In these small breakout sessions, United Ways and their community partners will speak about their efforts to develop out-of-school time action agendas that support overall systems improvement.

BREAKOUT SESSION PANELISTS:

SESSION 1 - WORKING WITH COALITIONS TO STRENGTHEN QUALITY AT A SYSTEMS LEVEL (Room 104 – 1st Floor)
Sandra Booth, Director, Youth Initiatives, United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg
Tito Luna, Association Community Development Director
Greater Richmond YMCA
Laura LaFuente, Director of Target Graduation
United Way for Greater Austin
Shirlene Justice, Project Administrator, Austin Independent School District’s 21st Century Community Learning Centers
Facilitator: Cortney Harris, Manager, Education Team
United Way Worldwide

SESSION 2 - MOBILIZING COMMUNITIES TO ADVANCE AN OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME AGENDA (Room 204 – 2nd Floor)
Michelle Gayles, Vice President of Community Impact
Valley of the Sun United Way
Jamie Toennis, Senior Director, Education Strategies
United Way Suncoast
Bobbi Davis, Resource Development Manager
Children’s Board of Hillsborough County
Facilitator: Lindsay Torrico, Manager, Public Policy
United Way Worldwide
**SESSION 3 – STRENGTHENING SCHOOL & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME PROGRAMMING (Room 206 – 2nd Floor)**

*Ross Gentry, Consultant, United Way of Tulare County*

*Sarah Link, Senior Director, Community Impact United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley*

**Facilitator:** Sarah Parker, Director of Operations Community Impact Leadership and Learning United Way Worldwide

**4:00 – 5:00 pm**

**2012 AND BEYOND: THE FUTURE OF OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME**

Out-of-school time is a critical space and strategy to support student achievement and youth development. It also continues to grow as a professional field, a policy issue and a space for innovation. Panelists will highlight recent developments in policy, research, investments and innovative practice. The discussion will center on what levers are needed to advance out-of-school time at the national level, state level and community level.

**Session Panelists:**

*Brenda Girton-Mitchell, Director of the Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, U.S. Department of Education*

*Erik Peterson, Policy Director, Afterschool Alliance*

*Bob Seidel, Senior Policy Director National Summer Learning Association*

**Session Moderator:**

*Jim Shelton, Assistant Deputy Secretary for Innovation and Improvement, U.S. Department of Education*

**5:00 pm**

**FINAL REFLECTIONS**

**Closing:**

*Ayeola Fortune, Director, Education Team United Way Worldwide*

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**SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

**PETER L. BEARD** Senior Vice President for Impact Priorities, United Way Worldwide

Peter Beard serves as the senior vice president for impact priorities at United Way Worldwide - a nonprofit network consisting of 45 countries and more than 1,300 local organizations worldwide. Peter leads a team of dedicated professionals that are responsible for the development and delivery of key strategic goals and practices that will allow the United Way network to work collaboratively with community stakeholders to achieve meaningful social change. Prior to joining United Way, Peter served at the Fannie Mae Foundation for 14 years. During that tenure he was the executive director during the wind-down of its operations and senior vice president for communications, strategy and information where he oversaw the development of the collaborative web-based portals, KnowledgePlex.org and DataPlace.org. Prior to joining the Fannie Mae Foundation, Peter served for five years as the general counsel at Habitat for Humanity International in Americus, Georgia. He was also in private legal practice at Semmes, Bowen & Semmes in Baltimore, Maryland.

**DOMINIQUE DAWES** History-Making Olympian

Since the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta and as a member of the Magnificent 7, Dominique Dawes has dedicated her life to helping those in need of inspiration and motivation. Thriving on every opportunity she gets to inspire people to envision more for their lives correlates into her work with the President's Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition (PCFSN), where she was appointed by President Barack Obama to be a co-chair. The PCFSN has partnered with First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move initiative promoting healthy eating and the importance of an active lifestyle to end the epidemic of childhood obesity in one generation. In addition to her healthy lifestyle movement, Dominique has served as spokeswoman for the Girl Scouts of America’s Uniquely Me program, Dove’s Campaign for Real Beauty and the American Heart Association’s Choose to Move program. Since her first passion is gymnastics, she hosts FUNdamentals with Dominique Dawes, which is a one-day gymnastics clinic for competitive level gymnasts of all ages.

**AYEOLA FORTUNE** Director of Education Initiatives, United Way Worldwide

Ayeola Fortune is the director of education initiatives at United Way Worldwide. In this role she leads key education initiatives focused on older youth that support United Way Worldwide’s education goals and strategies. She helped lead the development of the organization’s education roadmaps in middle grade success and high school graduation which outline the critical strategies, implementation approaches and
potential roles that United Ways can play to reach the United Way network’s national goal of cutting the high school dropout rate in half by 2018. Previously, Ayeola served as the director of Extended Learning Opportunities and Development Project at the Council of Chief State School Officers. In this capacity, she researched quality extended learning and summer programs in high-poverty, high-performing schools and assisted the Council in its efforts to provide technical assistance to state education agencies to strengthen their implementation of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers and Supplemental Educational Services provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act. Ayeola has also been a middle and high school teacher, and has taught and developed curricula at the University of Pittsburgh.

**DR. WILLIAM ROSS GENTRY  Consultant, United Way of Tulare County**

After an extensive career as a teacher, counselor, coach and leader in schools in Central California, Dr. William Ross Gentry has worked with the United Way of Tulare County to develop education related initiatives in a region that has been called “Appalachia West.” In addition to continued work spawned by the United Way Worldwide Out-of-School Time grant, Ross is providing support to school staff and private sector nonprofit project partners in regional initiatives. Recent projects include presenting at the 2009 Woodrow Wilson Early College Convening at Princeton, working in support of a regional P-16 Partnership for Student Success and development of youth employment grant proposals under the Workforce Investment Act grant program.

**REVEREND BRENDA GIRTON-MITCHELL  Director of the Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, U.S. Department of Education**

Reverend Brenda Girton-Mitchell is the founder and president of Grace and Race Ministries, Inc. — a ministry dedicated to promoting racial understanding and reconciliation. In 2010 she was appointed by President Obama as the director of the Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships for the U.S. Department of Education. Rev. Girton-Mitchell was licensed and ordained by the Metropolitan Baptist Church where she currently serves as minister for stewardship and missions, under the leadership of Rev. Dr. H. Beecher Hicks, Jr.

**ERIN GOLLHOFER  Senior Specialist, Philanthropy, jcpenny**

Erin Gollhofer joined jcpenny’s Philanthropy team in 2010. With 10 years experience in nonprofit and corporate philanthropy, Erin manages the company’s volunteer and employee engagement programs in more than 1,100 jcpenny communities nationwide. Before joining jcpenny, Erin worked with the American Heart Association in Fort Worth, TX where she managed the North Texas territory, facilitating the fundraising of more than $1.6 million. Her background also includes volunteer management for nationwide programs, event planning and marketing campaign development.

**SHIRLENE JUSTICE  Project Administrator, Austin Independent School District’s 21st Century Community Learning Centers**

Shirlene Justice has over fifteen years experience managing afterschool programs. She serves as the project administrator for the Austin Independent School district’s 21st Century Grant program where over 6,000 young people are served in twenty-five schools. Shirlene started her career in education as a volunteer parent in the Austin school system. For the past seven years, she has focused her attention on out-of-school time programs. She is a founding member of the Central Texas Afterschool Network (CTAN). CTAN is a local affiliate of the Texas Afterschool Association. She is also the president of the Board of Directors for the Texas Partnership for Out-of-School Time.

**MICHAEL KUBIAK  Director of Research & Evaluation, Citizen Schools**

Michael Kubiak manages Citizen Schools’ national evaluation portfolio, focusing primarily on measuring student outcomes, strengthening school partnerships and measuring overall organizational impact across the Citizen Schools network. Prior to joining Citizen Schools, he held programmatic, research and policy positions at the Annenberg Institute for School Reform, the Clinton HIV/AIDS Initiative and the YouthVote Coalition.

**LAURA G. LA FUENTE  Director of Target Graduation, United Way for Greater Austin**

Laura G. La Fuente is the director of target graduation at United Way for Greater Austin. Since arriving in 2007, she has been instrumental in implementing the Youth Program Quality Initiative and developing and implementing community initiatives to improve outcomes for youth. Laura has served as a steering committee member of the Ready by 21 Coalition and the Central Texas Education Funders. Prior to United Way for Greater Austin, she was the program director for the Hispanic Scholarship Fund and vice president of Post Secondary Studies at San Juan Diego Catholic High school.
TITO LUNA  Association Community Development Director, YMCA of Greater Richmond

Tito Luna joined the YMCA of Greater Richmond in May 2008. Before joining, Tito worked in New York City as director of youth services for Queens County. Other experiences in his youth-focused career include high school Spanish teacher, volunteer manager and trainer, and out-of-school time site director and administrator. As the YMCA’s association community development director, Tito represents the YMCA in the community and works to foster relationships and create opportunities that promote youth development, healthy living and social responsibility within their 17 locations and service areas. In 2011, the YMCA agreed to dedicate ten percent of Tito’s hours to Full Days RVA, a new regional youth development initiative spearheaded by United Way of Greater Richmond and Petersburg.

JOSE-LUIS MEJIA  Young Adult Engagement Coordinator, Transitional Age Youth San Francisco (TAYSF)

Born and raised in San Francisco and East Oakland to immigrants from El Salvador and Guatemala, José-Luis Mejia has ‘flipped the script’ from experiencing violence and the street economy to dedicating his life to creating positive change and opportunity in his local community and at the national level through direct service and policy. He has worked in youth development as a mentorship, life-skills, multimedia, and rites of passage facilitator. In youth and young adult policy he works as a youth engagement strategist, qualitative researcher, advocate, trainer and advisor. Now at age 25, José-Luis is lead program facilitator and producer at Conscious Youth Media Crew (CYMC), young adult engagement coordinator at Transitional Age Youth San Francisco (TAYSF), national youth ambassador at the Youth Leadership Institute (YLI), a student and most of all a proud father.

SARAH LINK  Senior Director of Community Impact, United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley

Sarah Link is the senior director of community impact at United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley (UWMBMV). She manages UWMBMV’s investments and strategic initiatives in the Increasing Youth Opportunities impact area. Sarah serves as the project manager and content expert for the Summer Learning Collaborative, a nationally-recognized statewide collaborative focused on reducing summer learning loss for children, increasing the capacity of out-of-school time program staff, and improving school, family and community partnerships. Prior to joining United Way, Sarah worked for more than 10 years in the youth development field as a teacher, trainer and program manager.

CHERYL OLDHAM  Vice President, Institute for a Competitive Workforce
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Cheryl Oldham is vice president of the U.S. Forum for Policy Innovation and vice president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s Institute for a Competitive Workforce (ICW). ICW is the education and workforce nonprofit, nonpartisan, 501(c)3 affiliate of the Chamber. As vice president, she manages the work of ICW, advances policy positions and promotes public-private partnerships to ensure that businesses remain competitive in a global economy. Before assuming her current position, Cheryl worked as an independent consultant in both federal relations and public affairs. In July 2008, President George W. Bush designated her to be acting assistant secretary for postsecondary education while also serving as chief of staff to the undersecretary of education. In September 2005, the secretary of education appointed Cheryl to be executive director of the Commission on the Future of Higher Education. She began her career working in the Texas Office of State-Federal Relations in Washington, D.C., handling policy matters under the umbrella of health and human services. She then served in the White House as deputy associate director in the Office of Presidential Personnel and as associate director in the Office of Cabinet Affairs before moving to the Department of Education as White House liaison in January 2003.

ERIK PETERSON  Policy Director, Afterschool Alliance

Erik joined the Afterschool Alliance in July 2009 as policy director. In this position he coordinates and advances the Afterschool Alliance’s policy efforts at the federal level by helping to develop policy goals and implementing strategies that advance afterschool programs for all. Erik works to build and strengthen relationships with policymakers and allied organizations to increase public support and funding for afterschool programs. Prior to coming to the Afterschool Alliance, Erik served as director of public awareness in the Government Affairs Center of the School Nutrition Association (SNA) for almost nine years, mobilizing members at the grassroots level to help achieve federal and state policy goals. Prior to working for SNA, he organized afterschool gardening clubs, community gardens, nutrition classes and farmers markets in Central Texas as both a VISTA and staff for the Sustainable Food Center.

KATHERINE ROBOFF  Senior Director of Programs, Higher Achievement

Katherine Roboff has worked with Higher Achievement for six years and is the organization’s senior director of programs. She manages all programmatic operations, partnerships and outcome evaluation. Prior to this role, she served as Higher Achievement’s director of site operations and center director. Katherine is also currently a founding board member of Mundo Verde Bilingual Public Charter School, assisting in the development and launch of this new Washington D.C. charter school focused on environmental sustainability. She has worked with and taught students in Portland, Boston and Guatemala City. Katherine is a certified trainer of the Advancing Youth Development framework and leads trainings for educators in the D.C. region.
BOB SEIDEL  Senior Policy Director, National Summer Learning Association

Bob Seidel is senior policy director for the National Summer Learning Association. He has lead responsibility for developing and implementing the Association’s federal policy agenda. He also manages the Association’s Healthy Summers initiative and leads its work with the Corporation for Public Broadcasting on early childhood learning. Bob currently co-chairs the National Human Services Assembly’s federal policy working group with Lindsay Torrico of United Way Worldwide. His prior experience includes government relations and policy advocacy for the national office of Communities In Schools, the nation’s largest school dropout prevention network. Earlier in his career, he was a teacher in the Baltimore City Public Schools and then an administrator and faculty member at the Johns Hopkins Institute for Policy Studies. He has also worked for the Maryland Governor’s Commission on Service and the federal Corporation for National and Community Service. Bob is also an adjunct faculty member at McDaniel College, where he co-teaches a course on “Changing the World: Philosophical Theory and Policy Practice.”

JAMES H. SHELTON III  Assistant Deputy Secretary for Innovation and Improvement, U.S. Department of Education

James Shelton is the assistant deputy secretary for Innovation and Improvement in the U.S Department of Education, managing a portfolio that includes most of the Department’s competitive programs including i3, Promise Neighborhoods, and others focused on teacher and leader quality, school choice and learning technology. Previously, he served as a program director for education at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, managing portfolios ranging from $2 to 3 billion in nonprofit investments targeting increased high school and college graduation rates. Jim has also been the East Coast lead for NewSchools Venture Fund and co-founded LearnNow, a school management company that later was acquired. After four years in Atlanta of advising CEOs and other executives on issues related to strategy, business development, and organizational design and effectiveness, Jim left McKinsey & Company as a senior manager. Upon leaving McKinsey, he joined Knowledge Universe, Inc., where he launched, acquired and operated education-related businesses.

KENNETH M. SMITH  President and CEO, Jobs for America’s Graduates, Inc. (JAG)

Kenneth M. Smith serves as president and chief executive officer of Jobs for America’s Graduates, Inc. (JAG), the nation’s largest, most consistently applied model of dropout prevention and school-to-career transition for at-risk and disadvantaged young people. In 1979, Ken worked with Governor Pete du Pont of Delaware on the design of the first statewide test of the JAG Model, and has served as president and CEO since its inception. Ken is also chairman and chief executive of Strategic Partnerships LLC, a leading domestic and international solutions practice that helps companies solve workforce development issues and assists in securing government funding to offset related costs. Prior to founding JAG, Ken served as staff aide to President Nixon; as director of special projects for the Distributive Education Clubs of America; and founder and president of 70,0001 Ltd., a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping high school dropouts obtain employment. Thereafter, he served in a new post as senior advisor to the Governor of Delaware on all activities related to education at the secondary and postsecondary levels. Ken serves as a trustee of the America’s Promise Alliance, founded in 1997 with General Colin Powell as Chairman and chaired today by Alma Powell.

LIDIA SOTO-HARMON  CEO, Girl Scout Council of the Nation’s Capital

Lidia Soto-Harmon was appointed chief executive officer of the Girl Scout Council of the Nation’s Capital (GSCNC) in August 2010, after serving six years as the organization’s chief operating officer. As CEO, her priority is to continue the winning membership strategy to reach all girls in the region; create a culture of philanthropy to support the cultivation of donors from the corporate and private sectors; and as spokesperson, establish positive and effective relationships inside and outside the organization. In her former role as COO, Lidia created many innovative programs to reach girls from underserved communities. Prior to joining the council, she served as senior vice president for community development for First Book. Lidia also served as the deputy director for the President’s Interagency Council on Women at the U.S. Department of State. Prior to that, she was the senior director of the Fannie Mae Foundation’s Targeted Outreach Department, designing the first corporate nationwide multilingual strategy to reach new immigrants to promote homeownership in the late 1990s.

DR. HELEN SOULÉ  Interim Executive Director and Director of State Partnerships, Partnership for 21st Century Skills (P21)

Dr. Helen Soulé currently serves as interim executive director and director of state partnerships at the Partnership for 21st Century Skills (P21), a national organization that advocates for 21st century readiness for every student. Helen oversees P21’s day-to-day operations, including implementation of the programs in the 2013 strategic plan and P21’s state partnership program. She is a former elementary school teacher and district level administrator. At the state level, she served as director of the Mississippi Department of Education Office of Technology, with responsibilities ranging from the statewide internet backbone and student information system to textbooks and professional development. At the national level, Helen served as chief of staff to the assistant secretary for the Office of Postsecondary Education in the U.S. Department of Education and executive director of Cable in the Classroom, the cable and telecommunication industry’s education foundation.
“Every child needs someone to be crazy about them.” These are the words of Salome Thomas-EL, award-winning teacher, principal and nationally recognized educator. They shape his lifelong commitment to answering the question, “How do we ensure that every child achieves their greatest potential?” For over 20 years, Salome has taken this challenge with the absolute belief that every child can and will learn as long as adults in their world care enough to not give up. Starting as a teacher and chess coach at Vaux Middle School and through his years as principal at several traditional public and charter schools, he has transformed the attitudes and strategies of school staff, parents and members of the community to help hundreds of troubled children not only graduate from high school but go on to earn higher degrees from major colleges and universities. Salome has been a teacher and principal in Philadelphia and Wilmington, Delaware, since 1987. He is currently the Head of School at Thomas Edison Charter School in Wilmington. He was a regular contributor on the first season of The Dr. Oz Show and is the author of the best-selling books, I Choose to Stay, about his Vaux Middle School experience, and The Immortality of Influence, which stresses the importance of leadership, mentoring, parenting, and service to others.

Stacey D. Stewart is the new and first president of United Way USA, a newly created position. Stacey will be responsible for the strategic direction for United Way USA working with leaders throughout the United Way network to drive community impact in the areas of education, income and health. She will also work to protect and enhance the organization’s brand and reputation. Stacey was previously executive vice president, community impact leadership and learning at United Way Worldwide. In that role, she oversaw United Way Worldwide’s efforts to transform communities in the areas of education, financial stability and health. Her responsibilities included global strategy and partnership development, and the delivery of a range of technical assistance and capacity building initiatives that accelerate United Way as a worldwide leader in social change. Prior to joining United Way Worldwide, Stacey held the positions of senior vice president of Fannie Mae’s Office of Community and Charitable Giving and chief diversity officer; vice president, Housing and Community Development; and public affairs director at Fannie Mae. She was also president and chief executive officer of the Fannie Mae Foundation. Prior to Fannie Mae, Stacey began her career in investment banking specializing in public finance. She served as a vice president with Pryor, McClendon, Counts & Co., Inc. and a senior associate with Merrill Lynch.

Salome Thomas-El

Head of School, Thomas Edison Charter School

“I Choose to Stay” and “The Immortality of Influence” are the words of Salome Thomas-El, award-winning teacher, principal and nationally recognized educator. They shape his lifelong commitment to answering the question, “How do we ensure that every child achieves their greatest potential?” For over 20 years, Salome has taken this challenge with the absolute belief that every child can and will learn as long as adults in their world care enough to not give up. Starting as a teacher and chess coach at Vaux Middle School and through his years as principal at several traditional public and charter schools, he has transformed the attitudes and strategies of school staff, parents and members of the community to help hundreds of troubled children not only graduate from high school but go on to earn higher degrees from major colleges and universities. Salome has been a teacher and principal in Philadelphia and Wilmington, Delaware, since 1987. He is currently the Head of School at Thomas Edison Charter School in Wilmington. He was a regular contributor on the first season of The Dr. Oz Show and is the author of the best-selling books, I Choose to Stay, about his Vaux Middle School experience, and The Immortality of Influence, which stresses the importance of leadership, mentoring, parenting, and service to others.

Jamie Toennies has been the senior director of education strategies for United Way Suncoast since June 2011. Prior to coming to the United Way, she was the partnership development director for the YMCA of Greater St. Petersburg. Jamie has more than nine years experience in the nonprofit arena including program design, development, marketing and management. During her time at United Way, Jamie has led the agency’s strategic direction around the education continuum as well as researching and developing a new multi-million dollar initiative focused on literacy.

Saskia Traill is the vice president, policy & research at The After-School Corporation (TASC), dedicated to giving all kids opportunities to grow through expanded learning opportunities that support, educate and inspire them. She is currently leading research and policy efforts for TASC’s ExpandED Schools, a reinvention of urban public schools by bringing together all members of the school and community to expand the day and increase learning options for students. Saskia also leads research and policy efforts in summer learning, high school expanded learning models, and opportunities for children to engage in quality science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Overseeing the research team, Saskia ensures that TASC’s evaluation of more than 60 afterschool programs and expanded learning initiatives drive evidence-based policy and practice. Prior to working at TASC, Saskia was a program manager for the Insight Center for Community Economic Development, working to build state systems for early care and education.

Sandra Wheeler has been with United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg since December 2007, first as the manager of community initiatives for Children, Youth, and Families and most recently as the director of youth initiatives. Her responsibilities include staffing the Children and Youth Action Council, overseeing the grantmaking process to funded programs in the education area and serving as the lead staff for Full Days RVA (formerly the Greater Richmond Youth Development Partnership). Sandra’s work is focused on building relationships in the youth development field in the greater Richmond region as well as communicating and collaborating with other relevant initiatives, such as Richmond’s Promise Neighborhoods, Bridging Richmond and Virginia Partnership for Out of School Time (VPOST). Sandra is currently serving on the leadership council for the VPOST.
UNITED WAY VISION

United Way envisions a world where all individuals and families achieve their human potential through education, financial stability and healthy lives.

Imagine a world that fosters hope and opportunity for everyone. A world where...

- All children receive a quality education that offers a pathway to a brighter tomorrow.
- The cycle of poverty and financial dependence ends, and productive livelihoods begin for even the most disadvantaged.
- Everyone receives effective health care that improves quality of life.
- Communities not only set significant and measurable goals to advance these fundamental elements of human development, but achieve them.

UNITED WAY MISSION

To improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities around the world to advance the common good.

To do this we will...

- Ignite a worldwide social movement, and thereby mobilize millions to action — to give, advocate and volunteer to improve the conditions in which they live.
- Galvanize and connect all sectors of society — individuals, businesses, nonprofit organizations and governments — to create long-term social change that produces healthy, well-educated and financially-stable individuals and families.
- Raise, invest and leverage billions of funds annually in philanthropic contributions to create and support innovative programs and approaches to generate sustained impact in local communities.
- Hold ourselves accountable to this cause through our steadfast commitment to continually measure — in real terms — improvement in education, income and health.