



## AUGUST 2009

Each month UEDA sends out an electronic bulletin to all current members, which features shorts articles and a list of upcoming events and activities of interest to our members. It is intended to be a quick and easy way for you to gain insight into the UEDA Community, and is also available at our website on the "UEDA News" page. We hope you find this membership service informative and useful!

**MEMBER FEATURE: Wisconsin Community Services, Inc. (WCS)** has a rich 97-year history of addressing the multiple needs of persons experiencing barriers to finding employment, including skill deficiencies, training, substance abuse, mental illness, housing, issues of incarceration, criminal backgrounds and various legal problems. WCS operates employment services for over 100 offenders monthly, who are returning to the community from its five halfway houses, Milwaukee County's Huber Program and the Criminal Justice Resource Center, Project Safe Neighborhoods and a community JOBS Program.

A stable job paying family-sustaining wages is one of the most significant factors in determining an ex-offender's success in reducing recidivism and returning to family and community. In order to improve the employability of African-American males, WCS has contracted with Milwaukee County to operate the *Men of Color Project* to train and/or place 140 men of color from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. To demonstrate the effectiveness of employment, a pilot project was developed. Through our membership in the African American Chamber of Commerce, WCS partnered with member company Eaton Asphalt and Paving to train 5 men from the Department of Corrections, Community Corrections Employment Program over a 12-week period. The project is currently in its third week of operation. If you would like additional information about this project or any other services offered by WCS, please feel free to contact Greg Williams at (414) 290-0414 or [gwilliams@wiscs.org](mailto:gwilliams@wiscs.org); or contact Terrance Evans, Department of Corrections, CCEP Director at (414) 229-0737.

## UEDA COMMUNITY NEWS

- **First time homebuyer credit offers opportunities:** The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 made a tax credit even better. The original tax credit program provided 10 percent of the purchase price of a main residence up to a maximum credit of \$7,500, which was refundable and needed to be repaid over time. The ARRA raised this maximum amount of \$8,000 and it does not need to be repaid. Various rules apply for eligibility, such as the purchase date must be between Jan. 1 and Dec. 1, 2009. Visit [www.federalhousingtaxcredit.com/2009/index.html](http://www.federalhousingtaxcredit.com/2009/index.html) for more information.
- **FTC Action Stops Foreclosure 'Rescue' Operation:** The Federal Trade Commission has put a stop to a deceptive foreclosure "rescue" operation that charged homeowners \$1,200 based on the false promise that it could save them from losing their homes. The operators of the business are barred from any further deceptive practices under a settlement with the FTC. They were charged with violating the FTC Act by falsely claiming that they would prevent homes from being foreclosed in virtually all instances or most of the \$1,200 fee would be refunded. In most cases the defendants neither stopped foreclosure nor provided promised refunds. The Federal Trade Commission works to protect consumers from fraudulent, deceptive, and unfair business practices and to provide information to help spot, stop, and avoid them. To file a complaint in English or Spanish, visit the FTC's online [Complaint Assistant](#) or call 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357). The FTC enters complaints into Consumer Sentinel, a secure, online database available to more than 1,500 civil and criminal law enforcement agencies in the U.S. and abroad. The FTC's Web site provides free information on a variety of [consumer topics](#).
- **Data hints consumers handling credit cards better:** The rate at which credit card holders fell behind on their payments was far worse in the second quarter than it was last year, but did improve sharply from the alarming level seen in the first quarter of 2009. Since the first quarter, this shows that consumers handled their credit better even as job losses mounted and the recession deepened, according to the credit reporting agency TransUnion. The figure was down significantly from the first quarter of this year, when 1.32 percent of card holders were three months or more behind on payments. That improvement came despite soaring unemployment and other economic pressures. [Click to read more...](#)

- **TracFone service targets low-income households in Wisconsin:** TracFone Wireless Inc. today announced its launch of SafeLink Wireless, a free offering of "Lifeline" cell phone service for low-income households in Wisconsin. The SafeLink Wireless service will provide eligible low-income households a free cell phone, mobile access to emergency services and free 60 minutes of airtime, monthly, for one year, as well as other features. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) created the Lifeline program in 1984 and updated the service after the crises of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Lifeline is part of the Low Income Program of the Universal Service Fund (USF), which is administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) and is designed to ensure that quality telecommunications services are available to low-income customers at just, reasonable and affordable rates. The Lifeline program is not funded from federal taxpayer dollars, but rather from contributions to the USF by telecommunications carriers, and collected in part from the Universal Service charge billed to cell phone users. For more information about the service, visit [www.safelink.com](http://www.safelink.com).

## NONPROFIT NEWS

- **Glass Half Full or Half Empty? Results of GuideStar's Latest Nonprofit Economic Survey:** "We've got good news and bad news." The old joke fits the findings from GuideStar's latest nonprofit economic survey, which looked at how charitable organizations fared financially between March and May 2009. The good news is that the proportion of nonprofits reporting decreased contributions, 52 percent, remained unchanged from our previous survey, which covered October 2008 through February 2009. So things apparently didn't worsen dramatically for charitable organizations between March and May. The bad news is that the numbers don't reflect the stress the economy is placing on nonprofits. The numbers give us insight into the impact that the recession is having on charitable organizations. For the specifics [click here](#) or [download a free copy of the survey report >](#)
- **Applying for Funding from Family Foundations-** When we think of private foundations, names such as Gates, Ford, and Rockefeller comes first to mind. But those billion-dollar foundations represent a very small segment of the philanthropic sector. Of the 72,000 foundations in the United States, fewer than 50 have endowments of more than \$1 billion. The vast majority, more than 90 percent, have endowments of less than \$10 million, and most of these organizations are family foundations. Since 1995, the number of nonprofit organizations has soared 50 percent, to more than 1.9 million, and the competition for philanthropic dollars has grown just as dramatically. For more information on how to capitalize on various funding avenues read GuideStar's article on [Apply For Funding from Family Foundations](#).
- **The 2009 Compensation & Benefits Survey is now available to fill-out online!** Are you in need of accurate, detailed information concerning nonprofit sector Salary and Benefits information? The Agency Executives Group (AEG), in collaboration with the Nonprofit Center of Milwaukee and MRA -The Management Association, is conducting their biannual Salary & Benefits Survey. Please take the time to fill out the 2009 Survey so we can have the most comprehensive, data-filled survey to date, as well as to receive a discounted price on the finished product. *There will be no hard copies of the 2009 Salary & Benefits Survey. Results will be emailed to organizations that have paid for the survey.* The Nonprofit Center will have a limited number of hard copies of the Survey in their Library after October 20th. If you would like a chance to take part in the survey or order a copy of the online survey results, please send your email address to Rodney Sanchez at [rsanchez@nonprofitcentermilwaukee.org](mailto:rsanchez@nonprofitcentermilwaukee.org).

## SMALL BUSINESSES / ENTREPRENEURS

- **Don't overlook SBA resources:** In the current economy, the ability to get business loans has decreased, but the need for quality financing hasn't. That's why the Small Business Administration is reaching out to offer help in the form of loan guarantees and a wide range of business resources, especially to targeted groups. SBA assistance to women-owned businesses has increased from \$3.6 billion to \$11.6 billion since 2000. During the same time, assistance to minorities has risen 150%. The SBA is also targeting smaller communities with the Rural Lender Advantage program and troubled inner-city areas with the Emerging 200 program to assist areas that have high poverty and high unemployment. The SBA.gov website also has enormous resources, most of which are free, and include online courses, consultation and mentoring. In 2007 alone, 1.5 million businesses and would-be businesses received help through the training network. For more information please visit [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).
- **The Sustainable Case for Business:** An event designed for Southeastern Wisconsin's small businesses, hosted by, Partnerships for Sustainability: Practical Steps for Small Businesses. Learn how to get started and improve sustainable business practices through free access to corporate mentorship

and sustainability assessment. Receive a free educational toolkit! **The event will be held Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:30am – 10:30am** at the Pfister Hotel. Keynote speaker will be Paul Linzmeyer, founder of ISO International LLC. For more information or to register visit this link: [Sustainability 2009](#)

- **Sylvan Learning seeks franchisees in Milwaukee.** Sylvan Learning Inc., is rapidly expanding its national footprint and is looking for franchisees in the Milwaukee market. Sylvan Learning is seeking franchisees to develop four new territories in the region, as well as purchase three of its existing corporate-owned centers in Fox Point, Racine and Franklin. They currently operate approximately 1,100 centers worldwide in 49 states and six provinces in Canada, as well as 10 countries. "To fuel this growth in and around Milwaukee, Sylvan Learning is actively seeking qualified franchisees who possess an entrepreneurial spirit, have a passion for the communities they will serve, and are interested in helping children build confidence and success in school and in life," said Curt Hapward, Sylvan Learning's vice president of franchising. For more information, click [here](#).
- **Own It, Grow It, Do It!** The Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation (WWBIC) encourages the people of Wisconsin to explore entrepreneurship, provide the tools to run more successful businesses, finance their ventures, and help them take control of their personal finances. WWBIC is offering business education and financial awareness classes to help you realize your potential and follow your dream. To access a list of classes, register or learn more about other WWBIC services, please contact them at 414-263-5450 or visit their website at [www.wwbic.com](http://www.wwbic.com).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Disability Rights Wisconsin Milwaukee Listening Session.** The Board of Directors of the Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW) will be holding a Listening Session on **Friday, September 11, 2009 in Milwaukee at the Hotel Intercontinental.** The DRW Board wants to hear from people with disabilities, their families, friends, disability activists, service providers and other concerned individuals about ideas for the future of disability advocacy. They would also like to know the issues that need to be addressed in the areas of special education, developmental disability, mental health and physical disability services and disability rights. If you have any questions please call (800) 928-8778. If you need special accommodations or language translation to participate please contact Linda Apple at (608-267-0214) or [applel@drwi.org](mailto:applel@drwi.org) by September 1.
  - **8th Annual Community Development Summit: Friday, September 18, 2009 from 7:30AM to Noon - "Regional Transit: Get On Board"** Join us as we review the progress made in the last year and work together to make improved transit a reality for southeastern Wisconsin. More than ever, business growth and employment opportunity have a common challenge - access to transit. A regional approach to transportation, workforce and building wealth is gaining traction. Hear from Mayor Tom Barrett, Governor Jim Doyle (invited) and Keynote Speaker Scott Bernstein of the Center for Neighborhood Technology in Chicago. Registration fee: \$25 per attendee; held at the Italian Conference Center, Milwaukee. For complete event information and to register, visit [www.uedawi.org](http://www.uedawi.org).
  - **Potawatomi to host national business development conference:** The Potawatomi Business Development Corporation (PBDC) announced it will bring together tribal and business leaders from across the region and nation to share experiences and ideas for building sustainable tribal economies when it hosts the 2009 Business Development in Indian Country Conference in Milwaukee. The conference **will take place Sept. 21 to 24 at Potawatomi Bingo Casino** and is open to tribal leaders, tribal members, vendors and employees working in economic development. A keynote address will be given by Carl Artman, professor of economic development in Indian Country at Arizona State University and shareholder at Godfrey & Kahn. More than 15 workshop sessions will be offered focusing on a variety of issues including grant writing, creating business and feasibility plans, real estate development, etc. A number of tribal-owned or funded businesses will also provide insight into their success stories. Participants must pre-register for the conference at [www.Bussproductions.com](http://www.Bussproductions.com).
  - **The WI Basic Economic Development Course** is being offered again this November in Madison! This exciting and interactive introductory course is especially beneficial for new professionals entering the field of economic development. It's also a great overview for municipal and county staff, elected officials, bankers, village and city administrators, and other individuals involved in economic development. The course will be held at the Pyle Center located in Madison, Wisconsin beginning **Monday November 9 and will run through Thursday, November 12.** Cost: \$595 (early rate) through September 15, 2009; \$650 after September 15. This course is popular and fills quickly so early registration is recommended. For More Information & to register go to: [www.uwex.edu/CES/cced/economies/bedc.cfm](http://www.uwex.edu/CES/cced/economies/bedc.cfm)
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This bulletin is a service for our members. If you would like to know how you can become a UEDA Member, contact us at the phone number below or visit our website's membership page for details.  
*If you have a suggestion for an upcoming UEDA Member Bulletin, please contact Kristi Luzar, Program Manager, at [Kristi@uedawi.org](mailto:Kristi@uedawi.org).*

**Questions or Suggestions? CONTACT US AT:**

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