



United Way **Community Matters**

By Mary Lou Goeke

United Way hosts 20th Annual Corporate Golf Challenge

We are just two months away from the United Way of Santa Cruz County's 20th Annual Corporate Golf Challenge, which will take place on April 30, 2009 at the world renowned Pasatiempo Golf Club. Funds raised will benefit the local programs that United Way funds annually; programs that focus on ensuring children succeed in school, residents can achieve good health and family financial stability. Our event last year's raised almost \$27,000.

Our golf challenge is organized yearly by a volunteer committee that begins planning six months out from the event. This year's committee is being spearheaded by Hal Dahlmeier of Smith Barney. Along with Dahlmeier, twelve other business and community leaders are dedicating their time and energy to this make this event truly memorable.

The success of this event is due in large part to the generous support of our major corporate sponsors. These businesses have been donating to our United Way of Santa Cruz County for many years and have been supporting the golf tournament for practically as long. Our 2009 major event sponsors are Chaminade Resort & Spa (Premier Sponsor); and Wells Fargo Bank (2009 Gold Sponsor). Strong support also comes from the businesses that sponsor our event both as hole sponsors as well as donate items to our silent auction and raffle. As you can see there are many opportunities to get involved with this event; I encourage you to join the fun this year!

The 144-player tournament will have a

shotgun start at 1 p.m., preceded by a putting contest. Players will enjoy free lunch on the course, gift bags, and an event wearable. The tournament will feature many contests, including closest to the pin, longest drive as well as hole-in-one prize opportunities. A silent auction, raffle, awards dinner and banquet will be held immediately following the tournament. Don't play golf, but want to join in on the fun? Come join us in the evening and bid on your favorite silent auction prize such as a private wine tasting at a local vineyard or a night's stay at a great hotel.

Player, sponsorship and participant packets are available now. Interested parties should contact Michelle Luedtke at 831-465-2201. Sign up now to guarantee your spot in this great event!

Outside of our workplace campaign, the annual golf challenge is the only fundraising event put on by our United Way. For more information on the good work being done by our agency and our funded programs, please visit our website at www.unitedwaysc.org.

For the past 16 years Mary Lou Goeke has been the Executive Director of the United Way of Santa Cruz County. She has 32 years of experience providing social services to elders, children and families. The mission of United Way is to improve the lives of the people of Santa Cruz County by convening the community to seek solutions to their needs and by efficiently raising funds for the human care programs the United Way supports. Their website is www.unitedwaysc.org.