

Great Game of Huddle Notes September 17, 2019

John Russell greeted the Huddle today by introducing Danielle Conti from the United Way of the Ozarks.

“United Way of the Ozarks works every day to improve lives in our community by uniting community support. We invest in programs that for a safety net for families experiencing challenges and focus on education to get up stream on reducing poverty. We connect communities, people and hope.”

~ www.uwozarks.org

United Way has named a new CEO, Greg Burris. According to Danielle he has a beautiful mind, innovated, and has new thoughts and plans for them.

One way to help United Way is to volunteer for Day of Caring. Last year they had about 2,000 Volunteers to go and help the community.

Greene County will soon begin their United Way Campaign Kickoff in October.

Interesting facts from Danielle:

- A baby born in a certain area of Springfield can live up to 85 years old where other parts of Springfield only lives up to 15 years old.
-They'll be doing research on this.
- Some students can only read up to a 3rd grade level. For that reason some students tend to drop out of school.

Danielle introduced CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children) Executive Director, Laura Farmer.

CASA's been in Springfield for over 30 years. There is about 600 plus kids in the foster system and right now CASA's serving half of them. It is a volunteer base: the volunteer gets about 30 hours of training, get sworn in by a Judge in Greene County, go visit the kids twice a month and their goal is to learn about the child, gain trust, to learn if the child would like to go back to their parents or be adopted.

A child is typically in foster care for about 2 years and 3 years if they are getting adopted. As the children are in care, they could have 5 different foster homes. This makes it difficult on the child because they have 5 different parents, siblings, and/or school.

Currently, CASA has 65 new volunteers to be sworn in soon.

