Welcome to the United Way Paper Family Exercise

PREP:

Materials Needed: (1 for each person)

1) Paper Family Exercise Template
2) GPS Road Map Front and Back
3) Pen

Items 1 and 2 are attached at the end of this document.

Optional Materials:

1) Can substitute an index card or piece of paper for the “Paper Family Exercise Template”
2) Can have the United Way GPS Road map projected on a screen instead of printed

SCRIPT:

On the first 4 lines of your paper, you see the letters A, B, C and D at the beginning of each line. Please complete the lines as follows. On line....

A. Write the name of a color. It can be your favorite color or an obscure color.
B. Write a number between 1 and 5
C. Write a number between 1 and 30
D. Write a number between 0 and 7

Now imagine with me the following: You live in our community however you don’t have a job with regular paycheck. With the numbers you have written above you have just created a family. The name of your family is the _____ Family. Fill in the blank with your answer from A. Write Family beside the word on line A. Imagine living in your house are ___ adults. Write the word adults on line B. Imagine who those people may be. (For example, if you wrote down 4 maybe it’s a husband and wife, the wife’s elderly father and a 22-year-old son.)

Next imagine how much money your family has to live on this year. Take your number on line C and multiply it times 1000. To do this, after your number write a comma and add three zeros. Place a dollar sign in front of the number. (For example, if your number was 21, then you have $21,000.)
Next imagine how many children and young adults that are living in this household. Now take your number on line D write children beside it. Imagine their ages and what their lives are like.

Now, draw your paper family using stick people.

Now, thinking about the family represented on your piece of paper, I want to share with you what the United Way has identified as key issues in our community. Choose one or two of these issues and add these to your family. (Write these on a line under United We Fight if using the prepared template.) ((A list of these would be provided on the screen.)

- **EDUCATION:** 1 out of 2 the children in our community are not reading proficiently at the end of 3rd grade while 1 out of 7 adults have no high school diploma. (15.3%)

- **AFFORDABLE QUALITY DAYCARE/AFTER- SCHOOL/SUMMER CARE:** For working adults, the high costs of daycare impact families. Finding quality and affordable after-school and summer care for their children is difficult. On average in Tennessee, a single parent who works pays 40% of their income on infant childcare.

- **INCOME:** 1 out of 6 families in Sullivan County live in poverty as defined by the Federal Poverty Level while many more are considered “working poor.”

- **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:** 136 adults were served in our domestic violence program with an average of 2 children each.

- **CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT:** Almost 500 children were served with 138 cases for sexual abuse processed through our Children’s Advocacy Center and 318 cases handled through CASA for Kids. (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Kids)

- **ADULT DENTAL NEEDS:** There were almost 4000 teeth extractions made from 1,500 patients in our Mobile Dental Unit. In our community, on average 1 in 3 adults do not have dental insurance.

- **SENIORS BASIC NEEDS:** There are almost 350 Seniors receive meals each day in the Greater Kingsport/Sullivan South area. These seniors are unable to safely or financially provide meals for themselves to assist them to age in place.

- **HOMELESSNESS:** United Way agencies offer 80 beds/night through our member agencies of Salvation Army, Hope Haven, Family Promise, and Hope House for a total of almost 600 individuals served in 2018.

- **SUBSTANCE ABUSE:** More people die in Sullivan County from drug overdoses than from motor vehicle accidents. In 2016, in Sullivan County, there were over 600 drug overdoses reported with 43 deaths. 83% of those deaths were a result from opioids.
Now look at the United Way Road Map. Choose 2 agencies that you think would be most helpful to your family. The back page of the Road Map has many more details on the programs. (If using the prepared index card prop, write these on the lines under “United We Win.”

Invite people to share their “paper” family with the the group concentrating on the United Way Agencies programs or Initiatives could help. (Be prepared to start with your own “paper” family you created to get people started talking.)

**Debrief:** Our theme this year for our United Way campaign is *Change Doesn’t Happen Alone.* Our “paper” family exercise was designed for a moment for us to have empathy with the road many people walk in our community. We all recognize as well, that these issues don’t just happen to the paper families, but they happen in our own families. With the help of funding from United Way, over 1400 lives are being touched every single day in our community. But these lives cannot be touched without your help. Beginning August 22”, you will be asked to contribute generously to the United Way campaign.

**The Ask:**

First, if you are new to the company or to our community, you are encouraged to learn more about the agencies and initiatives of United Way in three easy ways. 1) Attend the Agency Fair and Kick-off at lunch on August 22 from 11AM – 2 PM 2) Sign up for a two hour United Way tour or 3) Contact the United Way or one of the agencies and just say “I Want to Learn More.”

Second, if you have been at Eastman or in our community for a while and have not yet chosen to give to United Way, we want to invite you to choose this year to give. Your dollars *will* make a difference. Maybe the caring gift level is too much for you to get started... maybe you want to start at ½ of that amount. That’s fine... just get started. All donations are used to advance the mission of improving lives in our community!

Third, we know that over half of Eastman employees gave last year to the campaign and gave generously. While the many names of those who give are anonymous, as a Coordinator/Manager for this effort, I want to express my deepest gratitude for your giving. Together, our dollars are truly improving lives in meaningful ways. We are truly neighbors helping neighbors. Thank you and please continue to give.

This exercise was created by the staff of the United Way of Greater Kingsport. For more information or permission to use please contact Danelle Glasscock at dglasscock@uwaykpt.org or 423-378-3409.

P:\Committees\Resource Development\Eastman Campaign\2019 Campaign\United Way Paper Family Exercise .docx  Last Updated 7-9-2019