

# “United Way Day” at the Statehouse February 21, 2012



## Tentative Outline for the Day (subject to change)

Noon – Preparation Lunch where talking points, maps and mentors are provided (in One America Building, 1 block from Statehouse and from Sheraton where Great Rivers Conference will be held))

1pm – Walk to Statehouse

1 -2:30pm – House and Senate Resolutions – Be recognized!

2:30-4+– Meet with legislators

5-6 – United Way Volunteer of the Year Reception -

6 – 8 – Volunteer of the Year Banquet



**Who should attend?** Local United Way Board members, staff members and invited agency partners

**Why should my United Way participate?** All United Ways should participate, regardless of public policy engagement. We want to raise the profile of United Ways among policymakers. The Resolutions allow legislators to recognize United Ways for efforts in improving communities. Your UW board member/executive may be invited into the Chambers as the resolutions are read.

**How do we register?** – IaUW has post a special registration on its website (<http://www.iauw.org/registration/registration.aspx>; separate from the Great Rivers Conference). There is a small fee of \$15 that will cover lunch and materials.

**The registration asks for my home address as well as my United Way/Fund. Why?** Because we want to match legislators with actual constituents, it is important to know both where you work and where you live. We may arrange meetings with multiple legislators and will prioritize accordingly.

**What if I am already committed to GR Pre-Conference?** Invite your volunteers, staff or agencies to participate in Statehouse Day. Lucinda also provides personal Statehouse visits during the week.

**What will happen after my board members, staff and I register?** Lucinda will be in regular contact with you after registration. Because of the constant changes in the legislature, she will keep you updated about activities and our priorities.



**What will we be advocating as United Way?** It depends upon a number of factors. February 21 will be well into the “second half” of the short session. IaUW’s priority issues may be active *or not* by that date. Also, we recognize that some United Ways are not yet comfortable working in “advocacy.” We will provide talking points for all **three scenarios**:

- **UW-Policymaker relationship building only** where UW staff and volunteers simply discuss the role that UW plays in mobilizing volunteers and donors to address local needs.
- **Broad UW policy themes** where UW staff and volunteers provide a copy of IaUW Policy Agenda which discusses importance of 211, Education, Income/Financial Stability, Health and Charitable Sector (one priority or some combination of priorities), without specific bill references.
- **Specific policy objectives/bill references**, where UW staff and volunteers use IaUW-provided talking points around specific bills still active in session. This might include property tax exemption for nonprofits, standardization of health and safety requirements for government-subsidized child care, pilot program in early education, preservation of State EITC or NAP, etc.

#### **DRAFT Logistics for UW Day at the Statehouse**

- 1) **Park at Sheraton City Center**, 31 West Ohio St., Indianapolis, where Great Rivers Conference Planners have arranged an \$8/day parking rate.
- 2) Walk one block west on Ohio to One America Square (formerly the AUL Building). The 2<sup>nd</sup> bank of elevators will take you to the 24<sup>th</sup> Floor. **We are meeting at Noon in the offices of The Corydon Group, our contracted lobbying firm, for lunch and preparation session.**
- 3) At 1pm, we will walk one block south **to the Statehouse**. Enter on the east entrance.
- 4) We will spend our afternoon at the Statehouse, 1ish – 4ish, and then return to the Sheraton for the reception and Volunteer of the Year Banquet. Statehouse Day volunteers may attend the reception. However, volunteers and staff must be pre-registered for the Indiana Volunteer of the Year Banquet through the Great Rivers Conference registration site, <http://www.unitedwaywi.org/grc>.

**Security Notes:** Remember that you will go through security to enter the Statehouse. No firearms, knives, weapons, etc. Tips and info will be sent to registered participants.