

United Way launches volunteer Web site

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY United Way of Santa Barbara County announced the launch of a new Web site where community members can find volunteer opportunities at local nonprofit, school, faith-based, service and government organizations. Volunteersbc.org functions simi-

larly to Web-based dating services in that organizations post their volunteer needs and community members specify their interests based on a number of criteria including types of skills, areas of interest and times available, according to a press release.

After the community members input their personal information, the Web site will then list the best volunteer opportunity matches.

Participating organizations will be able to update their varying needs on a continuing basis and volunteers will be notified by e-mail, if they choose, of all updated or new volunteer opportunities that match their interests, according to the release.

The Web site also features "Board Connections," which lists Board of Director opportunities and "Product Connections" where organizations can list items they need donated and users can list items they wish to donate.

A financial donation page allows community members to support programs and services that address specific issues such as poverty, health, housing or domestic violence, or within a geographic area, like the South Coast or the Santa Ynez Valley, the release noted. Currently, the Web site features more than 600 volunteer opportunities with more than 170 organizations.

The Web site was developed with the assistance of First 5 of Santa Barbara County, The Orfalea Fund and SBParent.com.

— *Jeremy Foster*