

United Way of the River Cities
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For Immediate Release

(10.08.09)

Nationally Known Advocate for Early Childhood Mental Health in Huntington today and tomorrow

Training sessions for professionals and the general public focus on early brain development

Huntington, WV – United Way of the River Cities, Cabell County Partners in Prevention, Cabell County Family Resource Network, TEAM for West Virginia Children, and the WV Department of Health and Human Resources have partnered to bring Dr. Wil Blechman, President of Docs for Tots of Florida, to the area. Dr. Blechman is offering several seminars over the next two days, one of which is open to the public.

Today, October 8, 2009, Dr. Blechman, President, Docs for Tots of Florida will present “Building Connections, Shaping Futures – A Blueprint to Developing the Potential of Children”, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Christ Temple Church – Johnstown Rd, Huntington, WV. Light refreshments will be offered at 6 PM. This session is open to the public. Enrichment activities and childcare for infants to age 10 will be provided for those pre-registered.

Training Objectives are to reinforce the understanding of brain development before and after birth and the factors that may affect it, to better understand infant mental health, and to learn about the importance of relationships to young children, and the effects that stress has on their development. CEU’s are available for WV STARS and Social Workers.

Dr. Blechman is conducting the following sessions with professionals:

- Presented to Home visitors, social workers, Success by Six volunteers, etc. Thursday morning.
- Friday, October 9th, 8:00 am, Grand Rounds- Pediatricians – Cabell Huntington Hospital
- Friday, October 9th, 10:00 am, Presentation to nurses – Cabell Huntington Hospital

For more information please visit: www.unitedwayrivercities.org, or contact United Way of the River Cities at 304.523.8929.

Training is sponsored by Cabell County Partners in Prevention, which promotes ways to help children grow up safe and healthy because “*Good Beginnings Last a Lifetime*”. Agency partners include: Cabell County Family Resource Network, TEAM for West Virginia Children, United Way of the River Cities, and the WV Department of Health and Human Resources. This program is being supported by grants from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, the WV Children’s Trust Fund, and the WV Department of Health and Human Resources.

United Way is focused on the building blocks for a better life – education, income and health. Everyone wins when a child succeeds in school, when families are financially stable and when people have good health. **LIVE UNITED™**. A credo. A mission. A goal. A constant reminder that when individuals think outside themselves, they have the power to facilitate change. For more information about United Way contact 304. 523.8929 or log onto www.unitedwayrivercities.org.

Interview / Photo Op:

- Thursday, October 8th, 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m, “Building Connections, Shaping Futures – A Blueprint to Developing the Potential of Children”, from. at the Christ Temple Church – Johnstown Rd, Huntington, WV
- Friday, October 9th, 8:00 am, Grand Rounds- Pediatricians – Cabell Huntington Hospital
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Media should contact the facilities were the sessions will be held for permission to film / interview on site.

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