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Contact: 221-2885, Stephanie Tresso x15; Miranda Terrill x22 • CELL 323-7958  
462-5848, Hanna Greer, Franklin County

## **GO! IS A SLAM DUNK FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY KIDS**

*Commissioners providing \$1.7 million for  
low-income children to "Go" to summer camps*

(COLUMBUS) – More low-income children in Franklin County can experience the enriching and memorable activities of summer camp this year thanks to County funding from the GO! Program.

Now in its second year, GO! – Great Opportunities for Franklin County Kids – will give nearly 1,600 TANF-eligible (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) children the opportunity to attend a fun, educational summer camp in their area.

“Without GO!, low-income children in Franklin County would not have the opportunity to experience one of the great joys of childhood – summer camp,” said Franklin County Commission President Mary Jo Kilroy. “All kids should have this opportunity not just those that come from families that can afford it.”

Commissioners Kilroy, Paula Brooks and Marilyn Brown, United Way President and CEO Janet E. Jackson and Salesian Boys and Girls Club Director of Operations Robbie Fuller participated in a “slam dunk” contest today at the Club, 80 South Sixth Street, to illustrate the benefits of GO! to local children.

“At United Way, we are on the ‘go’ working on getting to the heart of what matters. We are delighted to go to our partner agencies again this year to offer summer camp opportunities for local children,” said United Way President and CEO Janet E. Jackson.

There are 24 United Way agencies offering 27 camp programs this year. They range from the arts, including music, drama and visual arts – to academics, including reading, writing, math and science – to sports and nature. Campers can participate in daytime camps or weeklong residential camps.

Franklin County Commissioner Paula Brooks thinks GO is an excellent program for Central Ohio children. “Whether it’s collecting bugs, learning how to play an instrument, getting better at basketball or learning how to swim, summer camp is a time for kids to discover, explore, learn and make friends. Every child should have the chance to experience it, regardless of whether or not their family can pay.”

“GO also stands for growth options,” said Franklin County Commissioner Marilyn Brown. “This summer children can learn new skills and find a place to share new talents they already have.”

This year there is \$1.7 million in county dollars available for the program. Funding for eligible children is paid for by the County through Federal TANF funding.

Later this month, flyers will be distributed to children in the Columbus Public Schools and made available at Job and Family Services Opportunity Centers, Columbus Metropolitan Main Library and branches, Columbus Parks and Recreation Centers and Neighborhood Pride Centers. Parents can also get registration information online at [uwcentralohio.org/go](http://uwcentralohio.org/go) or can request a flyer by calling 614-227-8738.