



Newsletter

May 2008

2008/09 Agency Funding Details

On April 15, 2008, the United Way Board of Directors awarded allocation funds for the 2008/09 fiscal year for partner agencies in Douglas and Pope Counties. This was an extremely challenging year as donations were not keeping up with the increasing needs in our local area. Funded programs (by county):

Douglas County:

1 Nurturing Children and Youth

- Boy Scouts Northern Lights Council - \$2,000
- Club 1 - \$5,000
- District #206 Community Education-Mentoring - \$15,300
- District #206, Middle School At Risk-\$9,750
- Girl Scouts MN & WI Lakes & Pines - \$4,000
- Lakes Area Recreation- The Zone- 5,000
- Lakes Area Recreation-Scholarships-\$6,375
- Teen Court - \$4,000
- TePPAC - \$9,375
- WINGS - Child Abuse - \$5,000
- WINGS-Plus Kids - \$28,800
- Young People's Place - \$12,000
- Youth as Resources - \$5,000

2 Strengthening Families

- Alexandria Family School-\$15,000
- Brandon, Evansville, Ashby, ECFE-\$6,544
- Caritas Family Services-\$1,500
- Child Care Resource and Referral-\$1,000
- Lutheran Social Services, Counseling-\$8,000
- Lutheran Social Services, Education-\$7,000
- Lutheran Social Services, In-Home Family-\$8,000
- Someplace Safe-\$8,500
- UCAN-\$3,000
- Village Family Service Center-\$25,600
- WINGS, Transitional Housing-\$5,600

3. Increasing Self Sufficiency

- 211-Northwest-\$1,000
- Alexandria Literacy Project-\$6,560

- Red Cross, Douglas County-\$5,000
 - Douglas County Jail, Inmate Transition-\$3,500
 - Douglas County Jail, Anger Management-\$3,500
 - Legal Services of NW MN-\$7,000
 - North Country Food Bank-\$4,875
 - Salvation Army, Douglas County-\$8,250
- 4. Promoting Health and Healing**
- Miracle Horse Riders-\$5,000
 - Windmill Project-\$3,000
 - Confidence Learning Center-\$1,000
- 5. Fostering Independence for Seniors**
- Elder Network-\$12,000
 - Alexandria Senior Center-\$5,000
 - Foster Grandparent Program-2,400

A total of \$269,429 was designated for 31 agencies providing 38 programs. Requests exceeded available funds by \$174,000. Additional dollars were also designated for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library reading program.

Pope County:

1. Nurturing Children and Youth

- Minnewaska ECFE-\$1,000
- Boy Scouts Northern Lights Council-\$500
- Pope County Family Collaborative-\$1,500

2. Strengthening Families

- Someplace Safe-Domestic Violence-\$1,000
- Someplace Safe-Parenting Center-\$1,000

3. Increasing Self Sufficiency

- North Country Food Bank-\$500
- Salvation Army, Pope County-\$1,000

4. Promoting Health and Healing

- Windmill Project-\$800

Based on donations received from Pope County residents, \$7,300 was designated for these programs. Eight Agencies were seeking \$32,518. Additional dollars were designated for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library reading program in Pope County.

Activities & Events Calendar

8th Annual UW Golf Classic

Geneva Golf Club
Monday, June 16

Pete's Ribfest for United Way

Pete's County Market
Friday & Saturday, June 13 & 14
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Partner Agency Events:

Elder Network**

Waffle Supper & Antique Appraisal
Tuesday, May 6
4:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Alexandria Senior Community Center

WINGS PLUS Kids**

Dinner & Silent Auction
Saturday, May 17
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Eagles Club, Alexandria

3rd Annual Lakes Area Kids Day**

Saturday, May 17
Luther Crest Bible Camp
12:30 to 3:00 p.m.

**details on page 2

Inside this Issue:

Upcoming Events (details).....	2
EITC Clinic Results	2
St. Mary's Penny War	2
Youth as Resources	3
Lutheran Social Service.....	3
Memorials.....	3
Volunteer Spotlight	3
Board of Directors.....	4
Funded Agencies	4

Upcoming Events

Elder Network's Waffle Supper & Antique Appraisal Tuesday, May 6 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Alexandria Senior Community Center



Cost is \$6.50 for a complete waffle supper. Appraisals are \$5.00 each, no weapons. This is an all-you-care-to-eat supper including Belgian waffles, sausages, toppings and beverages. Takeouts will be available. Local antique dealers will be on hand to examine antiques and give estimates of their value. For more information, contact them at 763-9084 or by email at eldernet@embarqmail.com

WINGS PLUS Kids Dinner and Silent Auction Saturday, May 17 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Eagles Lodge 3063 - Alexandria



Enjoy a delicious hog roast dinner and check out the many items up for bid in the Silent Auction. This is an enjoyable way to spend an evening while supporting the children and families of Douglas County. Cost is \$5.00 for Adults and \$3.00 for children. Contact WINGS at 763-6638 or PLUS Kids at 763-4100 for more details.

WINGS PLUS Kids Fortune Cookie Playhouse Raffle Wednesday, May 21 at 7:30 p.m. Eagles Lodge 3063 - Alexandria

This is an Asian playhouse designed in an octagon shape and will have four different roof heights. Pillows on benches surround the playhouse and bamboo flooring give an impression of being on a remote Japanese island. Tickets are \$1.00 and are available at the Eagles and Alexandria Technical College from Interior Design, Carpentry and Marketing Program students. Winner is responsible for transporting the playhouse. Contact WINGS at 763-6638 or PLUS Kids at 763-4100 for more details or to preview the playhouse.

3rd Annual Lakes Area Kid's Day Saturday, May 17 from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. Luther Crest Bible Camp, Alexandria

Admission is free for this fun-filled event for kids of all ages. The Beetle's Ringo will join in the fun. There will be a climbing wall, games and activities, and even a fire truck! There will be a chance to win one of 3 age-appropriate bicycles. Don't miss the fun!



Earned Income Tax Credit Clinic a Huge Success!

We are happy to report a total of 327 low income individuals, 172 Douglas and Pope County residents, were assisted at the Earned Income Tax Clinics jointly sponsored by United Way of Douglas & Pope Counties and West Central Minnesota Community Actions. Total refunds of \$387,000 were filed, \$229,203 for Douglas and Pope County. This money is new money being brought into the local economy, helping those who need it most.

The tax clinics were another initiative of United Way's Community Impact Coalition. Research indicated that two previously announced clinic sites in Alexandria would not be enough to meet local needs, so the coalition partnered with WCMCA to provide an additional location for residents with

annual incomes of \$40,000 or less. Additional highlights include:

- Filing 28 adjusted returns for prior years getting credits for individuals they hadn't received;
- assisting 91 recipients of Social Security and Veterans Benefits to enable them to receive the economic stimulus packages due out beginning in May 2008.

It is important when looking at this success to also recognize we helped put money in the hands of those who need it most—the poor. The average taxpayer assisted had an adjusted gross income of \$12,419.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped us help others. This joint effort was definitely a SUCCESS!

St. Mary's Catholic School Holds a Penny War



Leah Huss, 5th gr; Daniel Roers (4th) & Paige Boesl (K) with Linda Roles and Craig Erickson, UW, with shoes

Pennies can truly make a difference, as proven by the children and staff at St. Mary's School in Alexandria. In fact, they can make a \$1,166 difference!

Each year during Lent, the school has a "Penny War" in the classrooms to raise money to meet a community need. "We've arranged for children to get coats and boots from United Way in the past," commented Troy Sladek, Principal. "After choosing the 2008 theme of *Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus*, I contacted them about using the money to

buy shoes. We all agreed it was a perfect fit!"

Whether by coincidence or not, in the first week after the announcement appeared in the church bulletin, phone calls started coming in to UW offices, asking about shoes! One caller stated the snow was coming through holes in their shoes, and they didn't have the \$7.00 it would cost for the lowest price shoes they could find. The next day the person was thrilled to have a pair of new shoes!

"Unlike clothing, it's not as easy to find shoes on clearance sales," said Linda. "Clothes are seasonal, shoes aren't. So we are always watching the sale racks to get the biggest return on the money. This donation will help a lot of children."

On behalf of the United Way and all the kids who will benefit, Thank you for this wonderful donation.

Young People's Place

Youth as Resources

At only a year old, Youth as Resources (YAR) consists of 12 students representing five schools in Douglas County and 5 adults representing five businesses including United Way of Douglas & Pope Counties. Working together on a decision making board, they have the key responsibility of allocating \$10,000 worth of funds to youth-initiated, youth-led community projects.

The primary goals being accomplished by Youth as Resource are:

- Increase the leadership skills of youth
- Support youth in developing creative projects addressing community needs.
- Increase awareness by local people of the invaluable contributions of youth in community and the positive results of engaging youth as leaders and decision makers.

With Douglas County's anticipated 13% growth in the next 10 years, a tremendous amount of both opportunities and challenges will arise. Many youth in our local community are already very active however, YAR recognizes the need for additional options to engage youth, build their leadership skills,

and expose them to their unique gifts and ability to positively impact their community.

YAR has identified project priority areas that fit community needs in Douglas County as: Increased Youth Activities, Decrease of Racism and Bias, Promotion of Healthy Choices, Encouragement of Successful Youth, Increased Self Sufficiency, and Strengthening of Families.



One such program, Jefferson High School Relationship & Family Living Class, wrote a grant and received YAR funding in December 2007. Through their youth-led project the students made blankets for babies of teen mom's and presented them to Douglas County Social Service.

Lutheran Social Service



Incredible Years

Lost the instruction manual to your kids? *Incredible Years* parenting program is a twelve week educational program using a curriculum developed by Carolyn Webster Stratton, Ph.D. The program has strong evidence based results.

Results indicate that early intervention in children's difficult behaviors can reduce conduct problems and childhood depression while increasing parent's feelings of confidence in their parenting and enabling them to enjoy their children more.

The *Incredible Years* Curriculum is divided into four programs where we look at the benefits and barriers to play, praising our children, effective limit setting and handling misbehavior. We chose to combine our program with in-home help to assist parents in practicing the techniques that they are learning in class. We understand how difficult it is to learn something new but struggle to know how to implement it at home.

The class is led by two instructors and has consisted of 12-14 parents who are having similar problems with their children. The program uses multiple learning approaches including, videos, modeling, group discussion and support, as well as leader teaching and support. We provide a meal and childcare as a way to eliminate all barriers that make it difficult for parents to attend similar groups.

We understand how difficult it is to raise children and want to provide a few tools to use when tackling difficult situations.

This is what your dollar supports:

In the fall of 2007 the *Incredible Years* parenting program in Douglas County served eight families and 20 children. Six families are participating in the in-home component of the program. Program participants having completed the program feel the original problem that prompted them to take attend and would recommend the program to others who are struggling.

Contact Jody Shaskey-Setright at Lutheran Social Services at 762-5124 for more information on this or any of the many other programs they offer to local families.

Volunteer Spotlight



Jeff Hitland

Jeff plays a key role in the continued success of the annual United Way Golf Classic. organizing the final details of starting holes, scoring, special awards and much more for the 36-team scramble, now in it's 8th year.

Jeff and his wife Laura are busy raising 2 sons, Jacob, 6, and Matthew, 19months going on 4 years! He's been with Rural Cellular Corporation (Unicel) for the past 15 years and is SVP in Sales and Marketing.

He also volunteers for the United Way Citizen Review Panels and has been on the board of directors for Alexandria Area YMCA for 3 years, currently serving as Treasurer.

Thank you, Jeff, for *leading by example*, serving your local community.

Honoring Friends and Family with Special Gifts

Memorial Gifts

Some things do last forever. By making a memorial gift you can honor a special friend or loved one even after they are gone. Their community was important to them. By giving to United Way, you honor them by supporting people who need it most in their home community. Memorial Gifts to the United Way are listed in our monthly newsletter.

Gifts Honoring Special Person or Event

Honor a special event such as a birthday, baptism, or wedding anniversary with a gift that will help others. A great idea for that "hard to buy for" person! These will also be listed in our newsletter.

Leave a Legacy

Planned Gifts can take many forms. It can be as basic as designating United Way as a beneficiary in a will or life insurance policy. It can also be more complex, such as designating funds from a trust account. Often times, there can be significant tax advantages as well, depending on asset donated. An experienced financial planner or tax advisor can play an valuable role in determining the most appropriate plan.

Please contact our office at 763-4840 for additional information.

Board of Directors

Board President: Tom Peterman	Douglas Machine
Vice President: Lisa DeKrey	Tastefully Simple
Secretary: Trudy Blanshan	KIKV/Cool 94.3
Treasurer: Donald Kleine	Wells Fargo Bank
Board Members: Dale Erickson	Henry's Foods
Bill Finley	Unicel
Mark Grandgenett	Bremer Bank, Alexandria
David Gray	Douglas County Hospital
Jennifer Haugen	Pope County
Terry Kennedy	Retired Surgeon
David Kent	3M
Tom Larson	Pope County Sheriff
Sheila Marciniak	American Family Insurance
Terry Quist	School District #206
Chris Schroeder	Merrill Lynch
Susan Skoglund	Viking Savings Association
Mike Woods	Douglas County Social Services

Campaign Cabinet

Campaign Co-Chairs: Terry Kennedy	Retired Surgeon
Pat Kennedy	
Leadership in Giving: Trudy Blanshan	KIKV/Cool 94.3
Jody Hanson	Echo Press
Susan Skoglund	Viking Savings Association
Annual Golf Classic: Dale Erickson	Henry's Foods
Chili Feed: Marcia Gae Schmitt	Brophy Bay, Inc.
Silent Auction: Sheila Marciniak	American Family Insurance

United Way Staff

Linda Roles	Executive Director
Jessica Boyer	Community Impact Director
Randy Bredeson	Technology & Financial Assistant
Craig Erickson	Administrative Assistant & Event Coordinator

Mission Statement

Mobilizing Douglas and Pope County resources to create sustained changes in community conditions to improve lives.

2007/08 Agencies and Programs

Alexandria Area Uncompensated Care	Osakis ECFE
Alexandria Family School	Red Cross of Douglas County
Alexandria Literacy Project	Salvation Army
Alexandria Senior Center	School District #206 - <i>Community Education & Middle School at Risk</i>
Boy Scouts, Northern Lights Council	Someplace Safe (New 2007/08)
Brandon, Evansville, Ashby - ECFE	TePPAC (<i>Teen Pregnancy Prevention Action Council</i>)
Caritas Family Services	The Village Family Service Center
Club 1	The Windmill Project
Confidence Learning Center	WINGS (formerly Listening Ear Crisis Center) <i>Domestic Violence</i>
Douglas County Jail - <i>Anger Management & Inmate Transition Programs</i>	Young People's Place
Elder Network	Youth as Resources
Foster Grandparent Program	
Girl Scouts, MN & WI Lakes & Pines Lakes Area Recreation - <i>Scholarship Program & The Zone</i>	
Legal Services of NW Minnesota	
Lutheran Social Service - <i>Counseling; In Home Family; & Parenting</i>	
Miracle Horse Riders	
North Country Food Bank	

United Way of Douglas & Pope Counties thanks the many supporters who helped us help those who need it most by providing \$350,000 to fund these local health and human services programs.



United Way of Douglas & Pope Counties



PO Box 1148
115 3rd Ave W
Alexandria MN 56308
Phone/Fax: 320-763-4840

Website: www.uwdp.org
Email: unitedw@rea-alp.com
Linda Roles: Executive Director