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LIVE UNITED™ 

United Way of Douglas & Pope Counties *NEWSLETTER*

August 2008

2008/2009 Campaign Off and Running

Take the lead and set the standard for United Way's Pacesetter's Program.

Pacesetter organizations establish momentum that carries throughout the campaign and helps achieve results needed to continue building safer, stronger communities.

Pacesetter companies:

- Complete their employee campaign before October 31st.
- Invite United Way speakers to a campaign rally or employee meeting.
- Promote "fair share" giving. This means 1 hour pay per month or 1% of salary is given.
- Have a special event to offer incentives to add an element of fun to the campaign.
- Make a minimum corporate donation of \$1,000 (for-profits only).
- Commit to a goal increase of 10% in employee giving over last year.
- Allow payroll deduction for their employees.



Activities & Events Calendar

Stuff the Bus
August 1st thru 22nd



**JC Penney
Afterschool Roundup**
August 6-17

Someplace Safe's Unity Gala
September 12th, 6:00 p.m.
Lakeside Ballroom, Glenwood

**United Way Chili Feed and
Silent Auction**
Broadway Ballroom
Tuesday, October 7
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

United Way Coat Distribution
Douglas County:
St. Mary's School Gym
Thursday, October 16
11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

St. Patrick's Day for Snowbirds
AAAA Theatre
Saturday, October 18, 7:00 p.m.

School Supplies Collection for Local Children



Stuff the Bus
Boxes ready to go!

The new school year is almost here and United Way is teaming up with the Alexandria Jaycees to provide school supplies to area children in need. The Jaycees' *Sharing Tree* program, familiar to many, will be combined with United Way's *Stuff the Bus* program to meet the growing need.

August 1st thru the 22nd: Look for yellow boxes in banks and grocery stores throughout Douglas and Pope Counties. Pamida in Glenwood and WalMart in Alexandria are also collection points.

August 18 thru 22nd: Check out the bus parked at WalMart to make donations.

August 25th: Supplies will be sorted and packed into 500 backpacks to be distributed the next day.

Cash donations are also welcomed and needed for buying backpacks and additional supplies

Checks can be mailed to:

Sharing Tree, P.O. Box 131, Alexandria.
United Way, P.O. Box 1148, Alexandria

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Upcoming Events



Stuff the Bus with school supplies from August 1st to August 22nd by dropping items in collection boxes at banks, businesses and grocery stores in Alexandria, Glenwood and Starbuck. These supplies will be distributed to those who need it within the communities in which they were collected.

United Way is also teaming up with the Alexandria Jaycees and their *Sharing Tree* program to fill backpacks for 500 children in need who will be attending Alexandria-area schools. The *Sharing Tree* tree with paper 'buses' can be found at WalMart. Each bus has a specific supply item that is needed by children already registered for the program. Cash donations are also needed for purchasing backpacks and additional supplies. Checks can be mailed to Sharing Tree, P.O. Box 131, Alexandria or to the United Way, P.O. 1148, Alexandria.

The **JCPenney Afterschool Round-Up** is nationwide program providing JCPenney customers the opportunity to make donations to the JCPenney Afterschool Fund at the cash register by rounding up their purchases to the next whole dollar. This year, the money collected by the JCPenney store in Viking Plaza Mall will be donated to local after school programs!



The program runs from August 6-17. Funds collected will be combined with funds raised during the Holiday Round-Up in December and distributed in January 2009.

Rounding up your purchase to the next dollar is a convenient way to make a difference. It's surprising how fast the dollars can grow. During this past April, JCPenney raised over \$1.3 million dollars nationwide!

So, the next time you shop at JCPenney, consider rounding your purchase up to the next whole dollar and help out the after school programs in this area.



Someplace Safe

Someplace Safe's Unity Gala is on Friday, September 12 at the Lakeside Ballroom in Glenwood, starting at 5:30 p.m.

Someplace Safe of Douglas and Pope Counties has been providing advocacy services for survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and general crimes for almost 30 years in our community. Lonnie Wing of KXRA Radio will emcee an elegant evening of live music, hors d'oeuvres, and silent and live auctions. The evening will be highlighted by a special presentation by Joyce Jenney. Miss Jenney taught in Glenwood schools from 1960 to 1991 and is a survivor of a stranger attack. She hopes that by sharing her story, she will help other survivors recover and also help people better understand the many issues of assault.

Mark your calendars for September 12 and make plans to spend an enlightening and enjoyable evening while helping to support survivors of physical violence. To volunteer or get ticket information, contact Susie at 762-1995. You can also find more information at www.someplacesafe.info.

Volunteer Opportunities

Stuff the Bus Locations

August 18th to 22nd, WalMart: Volunteers are needed to receive supplies dropped off at the school bus in the parking lot. United Way staff will be there during the week as well to answer questions.

August 25th, Viking Plaza Mall: Meet in the former Thrifty Drug space to sort and pack donated school supplies into 500 backpacks, beginning at 1:00 p.m. and continuing until finished. This is a big endeavor and everyone's help is needed.

August 26th, Noon to 8:00 p.m., Viking Plaza Mall: Help distribute 500 backpacks and supplies to the registered families. A distribution of this size is a major endeavor. If you can even help for even an hour, please contact our office.

Imagination Library Book Program

Volunteers needed to pick up books at local Post Offices.

When families move and do not notify us, the books their children should have received are returned to their post office. We need volunteers to pick up these books four times a year and deliver them to the United Way office. These books are then redistributed to local early childhood programs and daycare centers.

Volunteers are needed for the following post offices:

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| Carlos | Kensington |
| Cyrus | Lowry |
| Evansville | Miltona |
| Farwell | Nelson |
| Forada | Osakis |
| Glenwood | Villard |
| Holmes City | |

Contact United Way at 763-4840 if you can help.

United Way Board News

The Board held an annual strategic planning session in July to start the new fiscal year. The session offered board members the opportunity to catch up on United Way information from both the state and national level and to review/revise plans for the upcoming year.

Much of the focus of United Ways all across America is in the areas of

- Education
- Income (financial stability)
- Health

These areas have been identified locally through the survey we did last fall during the campaign. The major areas of concern were, for the most part, poverty-related. As a result, your local United Way Board of Directors is concentrating their efforts on where the

biggest bang for donor dollars can be realized.

Committees are being established and the board is looking for volunteers with an interest in any of the following areas

Education:

- Reading Program
- School Supply Distribution
- Quality Daycare
- After School Programs

Income

- Free tax clinics
- Financial Stability Education

Health

- Backpack Nutrition Program
- Health and Wellness Program Education

Please call United Way at 763-4840 if you can help in any of these areas.

Volunteer Spotlight



Marc Illies

Marc joins United Way Board of Directors with many years of community service experience. His financial and leadership background has led to active roles in Central Minnesota United Way and the Boys and Girls Club in St. Cloud.

Marc and his wife Sara, moved to Alexandria with their family in June of 2007. He is currently the CFO at Alexandria Extrusion. Since arriving in Alexandria he has been actively engaged in Leadership Alexandria, Alexandria Stewardship and at Calvary Lutheran Church.

Welcome to Alexandria, Marc, and thank you for supporting your community the United Way!

Alexandria Family School

Families are amazing, challenging, and often need support in maintaining strong, positive relationships. Alexandria Family School has been serving families for over 20 years by providing opportunities for families with children from birth through age 16 to learn and grow together in an educational/mental health program.

Families who attend Alexandria Family School come nervously to the door wondering what they have just signed up for. Supper is waiting and activities are planned for them after they participate in group sessions for each age group from elementary age children through parents/guardians. Each group focuses on the importance of building strong families and how that can happen.

Alexandria Family School nurtures and believes in families that have lost sight of what they do well together, especially in times of great stress, such as transitions of any kind, family issues, and unrealistic expectations for and from everyone in the family and others.

Parents are helped to recognize the importance of child development, discipline, communication, remembering how to play together, and that all parents have similar challenges in raising their children. It helps the children discover that there are many types of families and that everyone has a part in strengthening relationships in the family.

Alexandria Family School includes family interaction as a part of every one of the seven weeks together. The children look forward to the activities that are generic enough for everyone to be included and can be repeated at another time.



Sometimes families are hesitant to go out into the community for a fun event because they are worried about their children's public behavior. There is safety and encouragement in numbers, so when everyone is bowling (or any other activity we might do) all the parents learn from each other how to handle difficult situations and to praise children's behavior. They are also quick to point out when someone else's child is doing something well to support and give joy to another parent.

Parenting can feel exceedingly lonely and Alexandria Family School can bring folks together to learn new skills, show compassion for each other, and find humor to lighten up the serious job of parenting. Through it all, never forgetting the huge responsibility and obligation that parents have to provide structure, consistency and love for their children.

To learn more about Alexandria Family School, please call Connie Good at -762-2317.



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 of Douglas & Pope Counties, 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 special events like a birthday, wedding anniversary, or retirement with a gift that continues to give by helping others. This is a great idea for that "hard to buy for" person! These will also be listed in our newsletter.

Leave a Legacy - Planned Gift

A Planned Gift 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 the asset donated. An experienced financial planner or tax advisor can play a valuable role in determining the most appropriate plan.

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

Board of Directors

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

Campaign Team

Campaign Chair: Don Kleine	Wells Fargo Bank
Leadership in Giving: Terry Kennedy	Retired Surgeon
Pat Kennedy	
Annual Golf Classic: Dale Erickson	Henry's Foods, Inc.
Chili Feed: Marcia Gae Schmitt	Brophy Bay, Inc.
Cindy Zacher	Zacher Excavating
Silent Auction: Kelly Janssen	Glenwood State Bank

United Way Staff

Linda Roles	Executive Director
Jessica Boyer	Community Impact Director
Randy Bredeson	Technology & Financial Assistant
Craig Erickson	Special Events and Volunteer Coordinator

Mission Statement

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

2008/09 United Way Partner Agencies and Programs

211 - First Call	Lakes Area Recreation - <i>Scholarship Program & The Zone</i>	The Village Family Service Center
Alexandria Family School	Legal Services of NW Minnesota	Windmill Project
Alexandria Literacy Project	Lutheran Social Service - <i>Counseling, In Home Family, Education</i>	WINGS - <i>Child Abuse, PLUS Kids, & Transitional Housing</i>
Alexandria Senior Center	Minnewaska Area ECFE/School Readiness	Young People's Place
Boy Scouts	Miracle Horse Riders	Youth as Resources
Brandon, Evansville, Ashby ECFE	North Country Food Bank	
Catholic Charities- <i>Caritas Family Services & Foster Grandparents</i>	Pope County Family Collaborative	
Club 1	Salvation Army	
Confidence Learning Center	School District #206 - <i>Community Education & Middle School at Risk</i>	
Dolly Parton's Imagination Library	Someplace Safe	
Douglas County Jail - <i>Anger Management & Inmate Transition Programs</i>	TePPAC (<i>Teen Pregnancy Prevention Action Council</i>)	
Elder Network	Teen Court	
Girl Scouts	UCAN (<i>United Communities Advocating Non-Violence</i>)	
Lakes & Prairies Community Childcare Resource & Referral		

Community Impact Programs:

- Free Tax Clinics
 - Coat Distribution
 - Stuff the Bus (School Supplies)
 - Back Pack Attack (Pilot program providing food for children over the weekend)
- United Way Partners with agencies and utilizes volunteers to address unmet needs in our local communities.

United Way of Douglas & Pope Counties

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Email: unitedw@rea-alp.com
 Linda Roles: Executive Director

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