

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

LIVE UNITED™ United Way

# United Way of Douglas & Pope Counties NEWSLETTER

December 2008

## Special Events Raise Critical Extra Dollars!

### Bremer Campaign highlights

Our employee **fundraising events this year raised a total of \$6,707** in addition to employee individual pledges, cash donations, and the Bremer company donation.



**Bremer Family Feud** teams pitted against each other. Vicki Berberich created a Power Point presentation like the Family Feud game. Emcee, Erik Schultz, was our Richard Dawson. We gave Target gift card prizes to all the team members for participating. Attached are a few of the pictures from the Family Feud game.

That evening we also gave away **door prizes** to those that came. This was our big thank you to them for participating in the UW campaign and contributing to the UW.

We did **"M & M's for Change"**. The plastic containers of mini M & M's hold about \$10 worth of quarters. We made labels to put on the containers that said: "M & M's for Change, Changing Your Community One Quarter at a Time." Every employee received a full M & M container to enjoy and refill with their spare quarters.

We had **Blue Jeans Fridays** where for \$2 you could wear jeans, the funds went to the UW. On some specific days we also had Wear Your Favorite Sports Jersey for another \$2.

The 2nd edition of the **Bremer Cookbook** (made in house) with recipes submitted by employees were sold at \$5 per book, raising nearly \$600.

**Potluck lunches** with free-will donation for 6 weeks. Each Wednesday was a different nationality. We had Mexican, Italian, German, American, Chili day, and Piggy Day (anything goes). Employees signed up to bring a dish for one or more of the weeks. We definitely had plenty of food! We participated in the Chili day again when our employees vote on their favorite chili to go to UW's chili feed.

Along with potluck lunches, we had **"Count the Item"**. There was a themed item (i.e. pasta for Italian, chili peppers for Mexican, etc.) to be counted in a container. For \$1 they could guess the count and win:

- 15% of proceeds for the closest guess.

**A silent open bid auction and live auction** was held with new or gently used items or services to be auctioned off. We also had 4 **blind auction** items that we auctioned off. Nobody knew what was in the boxes except for Berberich and Cindy Johnson. That was fun! We had 77 items between the two auctions. These were our best fundraising events!

## Activities & Events Calendar

### Douglas and Pope County RSV Program

-Volunteers needed at the Food Shelf, Alexandria & Glenwood Sr. Nutrition Centers. Tax Clinic volunteers are needed for greeters, preparers, reviewers, screeners, & food coordinators. Contact Randi Pajari at 218-685-4486 or email [randip@wcma.org](mailto:randip@wcma.org) for information and training.

### Foster Grandparents

Volunteers needed in Alexandria, Morris, & Brandon. Must be at least 60 yrs old, love to help children learn. 15 Hours per week, small stipend for time and gas. Call Pat 320-293-0682.

### Holiday Gala Set

The Annual Holiday Gala to support the Douglas County Hospital will be December 13 at Arrowwood. Festivities begin at 6 p.m. Tickets available at the hospital gift shop & State Bank and Trust, \$60 each.

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## Community Impact Coalition- Teen Court Update

Douglas County Teen Court is a community-based program that provides first-time juvenile offenders a diversion from the traditional juvenile court procedure. First-time juvenile offenders are given an option to admit their offense and complete requirements imposed on them by a jury of their peers in exchange for a clean juvenile record.

In Teen Court, the juvenile must be present with a legal guardian. Adult volunteers participate during the Teen Court proceedings as facilitators and by assuring all individual rights are being addressed. The victim may also be present if they wish. Each person explains his/her version of what happened. The jury then asks questions of the offender and parent/guardian.

The jury consists of volunteer junior and senior high school students, who have received training about the juvenile justice system services available in Douglas County, and the effects of crime to offender, victim, families and community. When the jury has satisfactory knowledge of the event and feelings of both sides, they adjourn and determine appropriate consequences for the offender.

Teen Court dispositions include a wider variety of more meaningful sanctions for the offender with serious consideration given to the victim and community needs. The Teen Court Coordinator then supervises the cases, insuring the conditions are completed within a ninety-day (90) period. If conditions are completed, the offender does not have the offense on his or her juvenile record.

Teen Court has dealt with over 340 cases since its onset in February of 2003. We have also had over 150 student volunteers and 20 adult volunteers!

### **The goal of Teen Court to the offender is to:**

- 1) intervene with first time juvenile offenders in an effort to provide knowledge of the impact of their crime on individuals and community;
- 2) hold youthful offenders accountable for their actions;
- 3) to stop repeat delinquent behavior.

The goal of Teen Court to the youth volunteer is to 1) provide an education of the juvenile justice system; 2) to provide an opportunity for youth to take an active role in insuring a safe and healthy community; 3) to involve youth in the shaping of positive behavior of their peers.

### **The goal of Teen Court to the community is to:**

- 1) promote community involvement in the juvenile justice system
- 2) lessen the burden on the tax payer by providing a disposition of juveniles without the use of paid judges,

## Femicide Report 2007

Recently the MN Coalition for Battered Women released the annual Femicide Report for 2007 listing women and children killed by an intimate partner or family member in 2007. There were 32 deaths; 22 women and 10 children. 24 children were left without a mother. In the past 20 years there have been over 600 deaths documented.

**Why doesn't she just leave?** If only it was that easy. Women do not leave because they don't have a place to go. Check out the [www.WCBW.org](http://www.WCBW.org) website for more information.

There are shelters for battered women and their children but they are temporary solutions lasting about 30 days and often times not an option. Safe housing is available in some areas, but that is most often only for 7 days.

**Where do they go?** Many become homeless, staying with family, bouncing from friend to friend or live in their car. This is not a long term solution for families. Ninety-two percent of homeless women have experienced physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, 45% report staying in an abusive relationship because they had nowhere to go and in rural areas of MN 35% of homeless women are homeless due to abuse issues.

**How can you help? Be supportive.** If a battered woman seeks your assistance, know what and who is in your community that may be able to provide resources, offer emergency housing. If you are able, support agencies that provide housing assistance to homeless battered women and children. Find out if your churches can be a resource for help with housing needs and of course, check out your elected officials, be knowledgeable about their stance on issues of homelessness and domestic violence and make use of your right as an American citizen to vote for the candidate who will work to eliminate homelessness as well as end domestic violence.

## Stretch Your Dollar

With the economy lagging, many are looking for ways to stretch their incomes. Fortunately, there are numerous resources to help those looking



for advice on how to save a little cash.

The little things are sometimes the biggest detriments to your budget. The “latte factor” refers to everyday purchases you could eliminate from your expenses to save money. For example, think about that soda machine you stop by every morning at work. At \$1 a bottle, five times a week, that adds up to \$260 a year. When you think about all those little things you could cut out of your life, it could add up to a lot of savings. Maybe buy a case of soda and bring a can to work instead.

Think of some different ways to entertain yourself and your family. Have weekly potluck dinners with friends instead of going out. Take advantage of “Kids Eat Free” days at restaurants. Instead of buying the latest electronic gizmo for your child, spend some time with them instead and make a craft together out of objects you find around the house.

Visit inexpensive or free attractions with your family, like your local park or museum. Use the local library to borrow free CDs and DVDs instead of renting or buying them. Sign up for a volunteer program in your community. Being involved in a volunteer project can provide a lot of entertainment and fulfillment for you and your family.

Save some money at the supermarket. Buy items that are on sale, but don't buy them simply because they're on sale. Buy in bulk, but only if it is less expensive and you know you'll use it up. You can save a lot of money by not purchasing convenience foods. For example, buying a head of romaine lettuce at \$1 a pound is much cheaper than buying it packaged at \$3.49 for 10 oz. Coupons are essential in finding the best deals. Clip them from the newspaper.

*Merry Christmas!*

## Give a Gift of Reading

Did you know that 35% of children arrive at kindergarten unprepared to learn?

The more words a child hears the larger the child's vocabulary when they start kindergarten and the more likely that child will become a proficient reader. Parents who are given books are four times more likely to read and share them with their children.

Reading to babies encourages the child to associate reading with love and comfort.

You can play a part in preparing children for school and reading by giving to the United Way. The United Way supports the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. This project provides books for all children in Pope and Douglas Counties from birth to age five.

Once a child is registered, each child will receive a new age appropriate book every month at no cost.

You can help provide this free gift to the children of Douglas and Pope Counties. A gift of \$30 provides books for one year.

This \$30 pays for the shipping and handling, the books are free from the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. If you're looking for a gift that keeps on giving, remember the United Way and designate your gift to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

For more information or to find out how to get involved with United Way of Douglas & Pope Counties to impact this community, visit [www.uwdp.org](http://www.uwdp.org).



**Chris Roering reads books from the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to children at the Viking Plaza Mall.**

## Volunteer Spotlight

Carol Meissner joins United Way's Board of Directors.



Carol and Harold, her husband, live in Brandon. They have 4 sons, 2 daughters-in-laws and 3 grandchildren with one on the way.

Carol is involved in her church and with the Horizon's program in Brandon which focuses on poverty. Her passion is Early Childhood needs and issues. She has worked with the UW in the past on meth awareness, childhood obesity, and dental access.

Carol has a Degree in nursing and 34 years of nursing experience.

## Memorials

### Memorial Gifts

Making a memorial gift 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 community. Gifts are listed in our newsletter.

### Gifts Honoring Special Person/Event

Honor special events, birthdays, wedding anniversaries, or retirement with a gift that continues to give by helping others. This is a great idea for that “hard to buy for” person! .

### 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

<b>Board President:</b> Lisa DeKrey	Tastefully Simple
<b>Vice President:</b> Don Kleine	American Foods Group
<b>Secretary:</b> David Kent	3-M
<b>Treasurer:</b> Carol Juul	Bremer Bank, Alexandria
<b>Board Members:</b> 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
Karin Tank	City of Alexandria
Sheila Marciniak	American Family Insurance
Tom Peterman	Douglas Machine, Inc.
Terry Quist	School District #206
Chris Schroeder	Merrill Lynch
Carol Meissner	Douglas County Public Health
John Wosepka	Douglas County

## Campaign Cabinet

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

## United Way Staff

Linda Roles	Executive Director
Jessica Boyer	Community Impact Director
Randy Bredeson	Technology & Financial Assistant
Corliss Stark	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-Scholarship Program & The Zone	Violence
Alexandria Family School	Legal Services of NW Minnesota	The Village Family Service Center
Alexandria Literacy Project	Lutheran Social Service -Douglas & Pope Counties	Windmill Project-Douglas & Pope Counties
Alexandria Senior Center	Minnewaska Area ECFE/School Readiness	WINGS Child Abuse, PLUS Kids, & Transitional Housing
Boy Scouts, Northern Lights Council <i>Douglas &amp; Pope County</i>	Miracle Horse Riders	Young People's Place
Brandon, Evansville, Ashby ECFE	North Country Food Bank-Douglas & Pope Counties	
Catholic Charities-Caritas Family Services & Foster Grandparents	Pope County Family Collaborative	
Club 1	Salvation Army-Douglas & Pope Counties	
Confidence Learning Center	School District #206-Community Education & Middle School at Risk	
Douglas County Jail-Anger Management & Inmate Transition Programs	Someplace Safe-Douglas & Pope Counties	
Elder Network	TePPAC (Teen Pregnancy Prevention Action Council)	
Girl Scouts, MN & WI Lakes & Pines	Teen Court - Douglas County	
Lakes & Prairies Community	UCAN (United Communities Advocating Non-	
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)
- Dolly Parton Imagination Library

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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**Linda Roles:** Executive Director

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