



Newsletter

January 2009

Campaign Success

Henry's Foods just completed a very successful campaign. The number of employees participating in payroll deduction increased from 15 donors last year (\$1,948) to 66 this year (\$6,418).

To encourage their employees to come to the campaign meeting they held a drawing from the names of individuals attending the meeting and gave away 9 \$25 Henry's Food's gift certificates .

Employees who gave a minimum of \$1 each week in payroll deduction also got their name put into a drawing for an extra day of vacation. They gave away one day at each of the three United Way presentations held.

Thanks to Dale Erickson and Anita Kovar for their work and to Henry's for offering incentives that were key in getting more people involved in the giving.

Beer and Wine Tasting Gala

The United Way is planning its First Annual Beer and Wine Tasting Gala to be held at Arrowwood on **February 20, 2009 from 5-7:30 p.m.**

A fabulous selection of wines from around the world and a variety of specialty beers will be featured. Hors d'oeuvres will also be served at the event.

Tickets are \$10 per person in advance and can be purchased by calling the United Way at 763-4840 or they can be purchased at the door for \$15 per person. Watch for more information.

Volunteers Needed

United Way's Community Impact Coalition is partnering with West Central Minnesota Communities Action in to provide **free tax service site for low income families in Central Minnesota.** This partnership was established last year after research showed a community need for additional free tax services.

This free tax preparation links families with entitled rebates and connects families with any additional services they are eligible to receive.

With the help of many committed volunteers, last year's tax clinic assisted 386 individuals and families with tax preparation; amounting in \$418,000 in refunds.

The Community Impact Coalition is looking for volunteers to assist with a variety of different positions as listed below. All positions will be provided training.

Benefit Screener - Screen families for eligibility in public benefit programs with an on line screening tool.

Tax Clinic Meal Coordinator - Coordinate purchase and delivery of meals and refreshments for volunteers.

Individual Tax preparer & Reviewer - Prepare and review state and federal tax returns using tax software.

Tax Site Host & Assistant - Greet customers, prepare refreshments, manage customer sign-in process, etc.

For more information contact United Way at 320-763-4840 or WCCA at 800-492-4805

Activities & Events Calendar

January is National Mentor Month

Call 763-0894 to see how you can help mentor or be a lunch buddy.

January 8 & 9

Bloodmobile- St. Mary's
January 8 - 1:30- 7:30 p.m.
January 9 - 10:30-3:30 p.m.

January 17

Girl Scout Cookie sale starts

January - April 15

Free Tax Clinic to help low income individuals and families claim EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit)

January 15, 4 p.m.

Funding Requests are due into United Way Office.

February 20, 5-7:30 p.m.

United Way's First Annual Wine and Beer Tasting Gala Arrowwood

Get your tickets now!

April 13 & 14 5- 9 p.m.

United Way Allocations Night

October 6

Chili Feed & Silent Auction

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District 206 Mentor Programs

Youth mentoring programs perform an increasingly vital function by bringing youth into contact with committed, caring adults in order to build attitudes and skills that will help youth be productive and fulfilled citizens. Formal mentoring programs seek to recruit and train interested adults and place them in committed relationships with young people.

These prevention programs are especially needed in cases where a child does not have the informal mentoring help of a relative, neighbor, teacher or coach. Financial support from the United Way of Douglas & Pope counties is used for background checks, mentor training new experiences for youth, snacks, public transportation when needed and program facilitation.

One hundred eight youth mentees in District 206 have mentors through five different mentor programs. They include: Match 2 Mentors; Lunch Buddies; Girls Rule After School; Student Match and Cross-Age Tutoring.

Mentors range in age from Sophomores in high school to age 78. Mentors volunteer their time for a one to one youth relationship spending time together over a school lunch, after school, or in the community throughout the year. There is a mentor role for you depending on how much time you have to share.



Aaron and Mike in after school tutoring session

Not only do mentor programs make a positive difference in the life of youth, but they also benefit society and the economy. Results of a 2007 *“Social Return on Investment in Youth Mentoring Programs”* study, conducted by a researcher at the University of Minnesota and Wilder Research, indicate:

- State Taxpayers can expect a \$2.72 return on every dollar spent on effective mentoring programs. (Dollars spent plus volunteer time) If the value of mentors’ time is excluded from the estimated benefits the return for every dollar is \$2.08.
- Communities get better behaved children, a more civil society and reduced juvenile delinquency and crime which accounts for additional public cost savings and increased tax revenues of \$1.87 for every dollar actually spent on the program.



Krissy, Carly, Oreta and Rebecca from Mentor-Mentee

In addition to United Way financial support, District 206 Mentor Programs are funded by Youth Service and Youth Development Community Education levy; as well as local regional and state grants.

Special thanks is extended to over twenty-five local businesses and companies that provide coupons, reduced prices and opportunities to our mentor-mentee matches.

Please contact Lynn Ransom (762-5287) or Kathy Haug (763-0894) for further information.



Blankets for adopted pets from Learning to Serve Class

January is Mentoring Month

Who Mentored You?

Call and thank Them!

Happy New Year!

Girl Scouts & Cookies

How it all began

In the 1920's and 30's Girl Scouts in all parts of the country baked their own simple sugar cookies and sold them to raise money for their activities. Over the years, cookie varieties have come and gone in response to changing consumer tastes. The core competency--developing girls' leadership skills remains as the main ingredient that binds the program together through time and helped to raise this dynamic organization.

Often Girl Scouts are asked "how can cookies enhance a girl's life and where does the money go?" With the guidance of volunteer troop leaders and active parents/guardians the following life enhancing lessons and skills are learned.

Life lessons

Many successful business women today say they got their start selling Girl Scout Cookies. Girls practice useful life skills such as planning, decision making and customer service. During cookie activities, girls are members of a team working towards a common goal with each girl striving to do her best.

Where does the money go?

For every box of cookies sold, more than two-thirds of your purchase price stays right in our community. "Cookie Revenue" helps local councils recruit and train troop volunteer leaders, improve and maintain camp and keep activity fees for all members to a minimum and sponsor special events as projects.

Girls and their troops are also able to earn "Cookie Dough" that can be utilized towards Girl Scout Council programs and trips.

Role of Adults

Adult coaches help girls develop leadership skills throughout planning, selling and delivering of Girl Scout Cookies, by using these processes through the Girl Scout Cookie Sales and all Girl Scout Activities. Girls play an active part in figuring out the what,

where, how and why of their activities. They lead the planning and decision making.

Learning by doing

Girls engage in continuous cycles of action and reflection that result in deeper understanding of concepts and mastery of practical skills.

Cooperative learning

Girls work together toward shared goals learning respect and collaboration, sharing skills and knowledge.

How it works in Douglas County?

One of our junior troops made up of 4th and 5th graders is planning a trip to Chicago next year with their cookie booth sales. There are also three older girls who are raising funds to travel to

Training for New Adult Literacy Volunteers

The Alexandria Literacy Project is sponsoring a Volunteer Orientation Session for prospective and new volunteers on Tuesday, February 3rd from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Runestone Regional Learning Center (RRLC).

Attendance at this orientation session is a prerequisite for the 10 - hour, two-part Basic Literacy Tutor Training Workshop scheduled to be held on February 13th from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and February 14th from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Anyone interested in attending the volunteer orientation session should contact Sandy at the RRLC at 320-762-0627 by January 30th.

Memorial Gift

The following memorial gifts were recently received at the United Way of Douglas & Pope Counties:

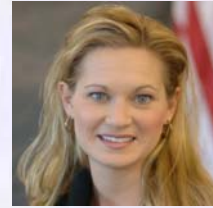
In Memory of Lillian and Clarence Patrick from:

Clifford Patrick

Memorials are listed annually in the Leadership in Giving brochure.

Thank you to everyone who chooses to make a difference in our community through gifts given in memory of a loved one.

Volunteer Spotlight



Karin Tank is the newest member to the United Way Board of Directors. Karin lives in Glenwood and works in Alexandria as the Assistant City Planner. She has also worked for the Pope County Housing and Redevelopment Authority and has worked with Glenwood and Beyond a part of the MN Design Team.

Karin joined the board to have a positive impact on her communities and she has volunteered to be the Agency Liaison to the Pope County ECFE program.

Welcome to the United Way Team.

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 Honor 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

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 appropriate plan.

Board of Directors

Board President: Lisa DeKrey	Tastefully Simple
Vice President: Don Kleine	American Foods Group
Secretary: David Kent	3-M
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
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

Campaign Chair: Don Kleine	American Foods Group
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.
Silent Auction: 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
 Alexandria Family School
 Alexandria Literacy Project
 Alexandria Senior Center
 Boy Scouts, Northern Lights Council
 Brandon, Evansville, Ashby ECFE
 Catholic Charities Club 1
 Confidence Learning Center
 Douglas County Jail Elder Network
 Girl Scouts, MN & WI Lakes & Pines
 Lakes & Prairies Community Childcare Resource & Referral
 Lakes Area Recreation
 Legal Services of NW Minnesota
 Lutheran Social Service
 Minnewaska Area ECFE/School Readiness
 Miracle Horse Riders

North Country Food Bank
 Pope County Family Collaborative
 Salvation Army
 School District #206-
 Someplace Safe
 TePPAC (*Teen Pregnancy Prevention Action Council*)
 Teen Court
 UCAN (*United Communities Advocating Non-Violence*)
 The Village Family Service Center
 Windmill Project
 WINGS *Child Abuse, PLUS Kids, & Transitional Housing*
 Young People's Place
 Youth as Resources

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

**Underneath everything we are,
 Underneath everything we do.
 We are all people.
 Connected, interdependent, united.
 And when we reach out a hand to one,
 We influence the condition of all.
 That's what it means to
 LIVE UNITED.**

United Way of Douglas & Pope Counties

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GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

LIVE UNITED™ 