

Live United

United Way of Douglas & Pope Counties

United Way



Newsletter

May 2009

Plant an Extra Row

Spring has sprung, and the United Way Community Impact Coalition is hoping to use the warming weather to help feed the hungry.

The United Way Community Impact Coalition is asking everyone with home gardens to **Plant an Extra Row** for those in need of food. When ready for harvest, produce can be donated to United Way, who will get the fruits and vegetables to agencies who can share the food with those most in need.

In today's economy, this is an excellent, affordable way to give back to your community and have a significant impact! Now is the time to plan your garden- **plant that extra row.**

This information is provided to you through the efforts of the Community Impact Coalition. If you would like to know more about the work being done locally by the Community Impact Coalition, please contact Jessica Boyer, Community Impact Director at the United Way 320-763-4840.

Healthland Campaign

Healthland recently joined the list of other major firms in our two-county area to support the United Way.

The initiative was started by Healthland's president and CEO, James Burgess, who challenged all employees to be as generous as possible—especially during these tough economic times. "We're proud to select the United Way as our corporate-sanctioned charitable giving organization.

Given the current economic situation, there could be no better time to share what we can with friends and neighbors who are not as fortunate. We look forward to making this an annual campaign."

United Way was invited to make a presentation to Healthland employees on February 17. Through the presentation their employees recognized the local need and generously responded with pledges totaling more than \$16,000.

As a result of their generosity, many people will receive much needed services. One example is the Back Pack Attack program which sends nutritious meals home in the backpacks of more than 200 children in Pope County every other week so they can have nutritious food over the weekends and holidays when school is not in session.

United Way provides school supplies for children unable to have the necessary supplies throughout the school year.

Every fall United Way holds a coat collection and distribution for those who need warm winter clothes. This past year about 350 coats were given out to Pope County residents.

Over 400 Pope County children registered to receive an age appropriate book every month from birth to age five through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program.

These additional donations are critical to insuring these great programs continue and will allow agencies to expand their services to local residents.

We salute Healthland and their employees for their generosity and willingness to make a difference in the lives of their neighbors and friends in Pope County.

Activities & Events Calendar

June 15

United Way Golf Classic

October 6

Chili Feed & Silent Auction

October 15

Coat Distribution Alexandria

October 16

Coat Distribution Glenwood

May 5

Alexandria Senior Center

- Scandinavian Meatball Supper
- Serving from 4-6:30 pm
- Pre-sale tickets from senior center or board members
- \$7 advance, \$7.50 at the door
- \$4 for children 4-10 years
- Take outs available

May 16

Lakes Area Kids Day

- 12:30 pm - 3 pm
- Luther Crest Bible Camp

May 27

Diversity Resource Action Alliance

- Meeting - 7:30 am
- ATC room 203

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Allocations Revamp a Success

One of the most important responsibilities United Way has each year is to determine agency funding. This year's funding was more critical than ever, as many of our partner agencies are feeling the direct impact of the economic crisis.

The current economy was not the only reason the United Way funding process was so important this year; this year's allocations process unveiled a number of changes. What many volunteers learned when they arrived was that the allocations process had been revamped to better meet the needs of our community.

For the past year a subcommittee of six volunteer board members and United Way staff met every other week to rework the allocations process, structure, and rating system.

The aim of the revamp was to show partner agencies United Way's commitment to their services and to prevent funding from getting watered down. The process will assist United Way and partner agencies to be more efficient and allow funded programs more time to demonstrate and achieve measurable outcomes. There were five key areas that the revamp focused on, they were:

United Way Priority Areas: Agency applicants are required to align with one of United Way's three priority areas— Education, Income, or Health - the building blocks out of poverty.

Two Year Funding Cycle: United Way has made a two year funding commitment to partner agencies to guarantee them 80% of what they received the first year during their second year of funding. The remaining 20% will be earned through outcome measurements and collaboration.

Panel's Responsibility: Panel responsibilities were to rate programs on community impact and program efficiency. Volunteers ranked each program on how well the program defined and delivered on outcomes and how effective the agency is at securing resources to meet its clients' needs. The four additional areas that the programs are rated have been assigned to financial experts or United Way staff.

Review Process: A two year funding cycle allows panels the opportunity to better understand the programs under review. During the first year, volunteers listen to agency presentations, ask questions and rate the agency programs. The second year, volunteers will conduct site visits and become familiar with performance evaluation and the agency themselves.

New Program Committee: To prevent the funding pool from becoming too watered down, new programs requesting funding will be overseen by the new program committee for two years before they become a partner agency in the allocations process.

The reworking of the allocations process, structure, and rating system provides transparency to the funding process. United Way will allocate monies to programs based on the outlined criterion; therefore providing wise stewardship of public funds.

Teen Pregnancy Rises in MN

For the first time in 16 years, teen pregnancy is on the rise in Minnesota, where in one year the state saw an increase double that of the national pace.

According to data collected by the Minnesota Department of Health, from 2005 to 2006 Minnesota's teen pregnancy rate grew by 6 percent and, based on new figures rose again in 2007. During the same time period, the teen birth rate in Minnesota rose by 7 percent. By comparison the nation's teen birth rate grew by only 3 percent from 2005 to 2006.

"Although the state of Minnesota's teen birth rate has increased, Douglas County rates have remained the same," stated Jennifer Janke, N.P.-C.N.M. "We'd like to contribute that to programming being set up for youth in our area," Janke serves as President of the local organization, TePPAC (Teen Pregnancy Prevention Action Council).

The organization has been coordinating teen pregnancy prevention programming for over a decade by providing asset building tools to young people in the community.

Stop it Before it Starts

Come to a daylong training that provides answers on sexual and domestic violence, its causes, and what you can do in your workplace, school, and community to stop it before it starts.

The training will be Monday, May 4th from 9-4:30 pm at the Douglas County Library. It will provide an overview of the problem of sexual and domestic violence in the morning and then work on primary prevention and action planning in the afternoon.

Business leaders, elected officials, education, health and human service personnel, law enforcement, members of the faith community, civic groups, victim services provider and primary prevention teams are encouraged to attend.

Training locally is sponsored by Someplace Safe, Wings Family Supportive Services, United Communities Advocating non-violence (UCAN). This training is a statewide initiative supported by the MN Departments of Health & Public Safety and the Bush Foundation.

The US Violence Against Women Act of 2005 states that "nearly 1/2 of American women report physical and sexual abuse by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives." Why are so many sweet little two year old boys growing up to be abusive males? What in the environment supports this kind of behavior? Answers to these and other questions will be discussed and answers provided at this training.

Training is free, to register, send an email to Frank Jewell at frank@menaspeacemakers.org.

Volunteers Needed

Miracle Horseriders

Needs volunteers to help with fundraisers and/or grant writing and people to assist with riders getting on or off the horse, riding in the corral or walking alongside the horse or leading the horse.

For more information contact Candy at 218-267-5216 or email at mhr@midwestinfo.com.

Lakes Area Humane Society

Volunteers are invited to stop in at 3811 Nevada St SW or call Sara at 320-759-2260 to help clean kennels, pet socialization and yard work.

Let's Go Fishing with Seniors

Volunteers are needed to assist with participants who are 55+ on fishing outings. Let's Go Fishing with Seniors provides all the equipment, including the pontoon. Time commitment is two hours per outing. Contact Jim Schoeberl at 320-763-6698.

Nelson Gables

There are several opportunities for volunteers. They are bingo caller to assist with bingo on Saturdays for about one hour. This could be a great family volunteer experience.

A companion volunteer is also needed to play cards or games with the residents, write letters and provide friendship. Days and weekends approximately 1 - 2 hours per week.

Tenants also need drivers who would be willing to accompany tenants to special community events, Dr. appointments, etc. The time commitment for volunteers is 1 to 2 hours per week.

Any individual or group who has a particular talent they would like to share such as playing piano, or singing may contact Linda at 762-1113.

Alexandria Chamber of Commerce needs volunteers to help at the Ribfest during the annual Awake the Lakes Celebrations. Volunteers will collect cash for rib vendors and are needed on Friday, May 22, from 5-8 p.m.

You can get involved with a fun event, by calling Carol at the Chamber at 763-3161.

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.

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 a valuable role in determining the appropriate plan.

For more information, please contact the United way at 763-4840.

Lakes Area Kids Day

Lakes Area Kids Day once again promises to be a exciting fun-filled event and a great family adventure. Learn about kids health, wellness, safety, nutrition, community and environment.

Bring the kids to see the Alexandria Beetles, Ringo Radar, juggler and clowns, fire truck, live music, games and activities. See demonstrations by the search and rescue dogs, participate in face painting, hair wrapping and wobble board balancing.

Mark your calendars now!

Date: May 16

Time: 12:30 - 3p.m.

Location: Luther Crest Bible Camp

Admission: free

Register to win free bikes for three different age groups. Bring the whole family. You won't want to miss it.

Lakes Area Kids Day, sponsored by Elden's, the Beetles, Central Lakes Search & Rescue, and Minnesota Early Childhood Initiative.

Volunteer Spotlight



Nancy Cosco

Nancy Cosco is a reading teacher who knows the value of teaching children to read and continues helping children through her volunteer work with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

Every month, Nancy enters new registrations and updates any address changes to insure the delivery of over 1600 books to children in both Pope and Douglas Counties.

The volunteering Nancy does for the United Way contributes to the great success of the Dolly Parton Program.

Nancy also volunteers at the hospital and as a religious education teacher.

Our hats go off to Nancy with a huge thank you and appreciation for all the volunteering you do in our community and for the United Way.

Visioning Rally Celebration

Horizons Community Leadership to Reduce Poverty Visioning Rally will be held May 1.

- Starbuck Community Center
- Free meal begins at 5 pm
- Rally starts at 5:45 pm

Adults and children 12 & up are invited to share ideas on community visioning.

Elementary students will share their Starbuck Pride.

Enjoy great surprises and special drawings for adults and children.

This is a great opportunity to get involved and to make a difference in the Starbuck Community!

For more information contact Jeannie Pederson at 320-634-3909 or email at famcolab@charter.net.

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	Verizon
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.

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