

By the Way,

a newsletter for long-time friends of United Way

Spring 2016

MEET THE UNITED WAY CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN CHAIR



In 2016, Dennis Rosonke will step up his already active volunteer support of United Way by serving as the United Way volunteer Campaign Chair.

Dennis Rosonke is leading the United Way Campaign as Chair in 2016, United Way of Greater St. Joseph's 100th year.

Dennis said, "Growing up in a small Iowa town, I had the benefit of experiencing firsthand the caring power of community at a young age." He said he learned the importance of a community supporting each other and assisting when people need a helping hand to get back on track.

He is no newcomer to United Way, having been named the 2015 United Way Outstanding Volunteer Award recipient for outstanding volunteer service. In 2015, Rosonke served on nine United Way committees and was treasurer of the United Way Board and Chair of the Finance Committee. He has served as a United Way Campaign volunteer since 2003.

The Centennial Campaign will officially kick off on September 1. As Campaign Chair, Dennis aims to encourage donors to consider growing in the way they support United Way. He hopes that some donors will be able to increase pledges by \$100 in celebration of the United Way Centennial or by a dollar for every year they have given to United Way. He hopes that some will be able to give a long-lasting gift through planned giving or by recruiting a new United Way donor or volunteer.

Dennis said, in the meantime, "Please encourage your friends, co-workers, and family to advocate for United Way and its 18 Partner Agencies and get the next 100 years off to a great start."

Dennis will be chairing the Centennial Campaign with the support of his family and workplace who also have experience with United Way. Holly, his wife, is the Human Resources Director at Family Guidance Center, a United Way Partner Agency. Their teenage girls, Abigail and Madison, have read with elementary students during summers as United Way Reading Adventure volunteers. Dennis is the Chief Financial Officer at Meierhoffer Funeral Home & Crematory, a United Way supporter. Dennis thanks long-term donors and all who give, advocate, and volunteer. ♦

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May-Aug.-United Way Reading Adventure. Volunteers read to school-age children enrolled in summer childcare.

June 8-Taste of United Way focused on Big Brothers Big Sisters. 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. No cost, but RSVP.

July 13-Taste of United Way focused on Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Inc., 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. No cost, but RSVP.

Aug. 5-6-United Way STUFF THE BUS! at both St. Joseph Walmart locations.

Aug. 10-Taste of United Way focused on The CENTER, A Samaritan Center,

11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. No cost, but RSVP.

Aug. 27-28-Sound of Speed Airshow at Rosecrans Memorial Airport. A generous donation from the event will be given to United Way.

Aug. 31-Missouri Western Paint It Gold Blitz for United Way.

Sept. 1-United Way Campaign Kickoff at the Grand Ballroom, 602 Felix. 7:15-8:15 a.m. Fee for breakfast. RSVP.

Sept. 14-Taste of United Way focused on United Way Community Investment. 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. No cost, but RSVP.

Sept. 24-Junior League of St. Joseph's

5th Annual Pony Express Run to benefit United Way of Greater St. Joseph. 5K walk/run and half marathon begin at 8 a.m. Kids' Fun Run begins at 9 a.m.

Oct. 12-Taste of United Way focused on Bartlett Center, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. No cost, but RSVP.

Nov. 3-United Way Campaign Victory Dinner at Missouri Western Fulkerson Center, 6-8:15 p.m. Fee for dinner. RSVP.

Nov. 9-Taste of United Way focused on Children's Mercy

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28 ADULTS ARE LEARNING TO LEAD IN ST. JOSEPH

United Way Leadership St. Joseph aims to help class members develop leadership skills and knowledge of our community to be effective leaders in St. Joseph.

The class meets monthly and will graduate in December.

The following people are enrolled in this year's class and are pictured below as posed during an opening retreat activity: Jonathan Alden, *Mosaic Life Care*; Tom Alden, *Nestle Purina PetCare*; Carrie Armstead, *Johnson Controls, Inc.*; Jana Campbell, *United Cerebral Palsy of Northwest Missouri*; Melissa Carson, *Big Brothers Big Sisters*; Teresa Cobb, *American Red Cross of Northwest Missouri*; Susanne Eichenmueller, *Junior League of St. Joseph*; Taira Garvey, *CliftonLarsonAllenLLP*; Joel Hane, *Tieman, Spencer, Hicks LLC*; Drew Hill, *US Bank*; Hannah Howard, *Nestle Purina PetCare*; Jenna Keyes, *City of St. Joseph Animal Control*; Carrie Koelzer, *KCP&L*; Dana Massin, *community volunteer*; Andrew Mertz, *Altec Industries, Inc.*; Shannon Moore, *US Bank*; Korbyn Paden, *First American Title Insurance Company*; Rodney Potter, *Progressive Community Services*; Stacey Reinert, *American Family Mutual Insurance Company*; Jennifer Sanders-Tutt, *St. Joseph Public Library*; Tanja Schumacher, *Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica*; Jordan Shadwick, *Hillcrest Transitional Housing*; Seth Slayden, *Murphy, Taylor, Siemens & Elliott P.C.*; Michael Thornton, *Hillyard Companies*; Dee Vestal, *American Family Mutual Insurance Company*; John (J.C.) Watts, *Johnson Controls, Inc.*; Korinda Wierzba, *Mosaic Life Care*; and Kristin Wyckoff, *Commerce Bank*.◆



... (cont'd) UNITEDWAYCENTENNIAL

big part of the agency's purpose was to raise money to share with existing social services that could use extra financial support from the community.

The first campaign in June 1916 raised \$17,404.03 in pledges and contributions. Eight local charities received shares of the funding.

During the Great Depression, in 1933, the federation adopted the name "Community Chest," evolved into the United Fund in 1957, and ultimately became United Way of Greater St. Joseph in 1975. Through the century and the name changes, purposes have remained largely the same.

Today, thousands of lives across Northwest Missouri and Northeast Kansas are improved through the caring power of community as people give, advocate, and volunteer to support education, health, and financial stability. United Way donor dollars support the work of 18 Partner Agencies and the work of seven United Way Initiatives. Last year, the community pledged \$3,154,629.13 through the annual campaign, and more than 570 people supported the work of United Way as volunteers.

As a long-term donor, you may have insight to share about United Way's history. If so, staff would love to learn more about United Way's past and your experience with United Way from you. Please call 364-2381.◆



The St. Joseph Public Library, Rolling Hills Consolidated Library, and Minnie Cline Elementary provide space for the United Way Kindergarten Jumpstart classes to meet. Teachers volunteer their time to lead the classes.

UNITEDWAYKINDERGARTEN JUMPSTART HELPS FAMILIES PREPARE DURING SUMMER

Many children who start kindergarten unprepared struggle in school and may never catch up. United Way Kindergarten Jumpstart, a program of United Way Success By 6®, helps children identified as needing more kindergarten readiness to build additional skills and confidence before the school year begins.

United Way Kindergarten Jumpstart consists of four classes held on a weekly basis in the summer months.

As in the past, classes will again be led by skilled early educators at St. Joseph libraries for St. Joseph School District students and will focus on helping parents teach their children critical kindergarten preparation skills in the weeks leading up to the first day of school. All participants will be given resources necessary to work on skill development at home, including a collection of age appropriate books.

New this summer, Kansas City Royals Charities is helping sponsor the program. Their support funds this year's program and enables United Way to offer Kindergarten Jumpstart to families in the Savannah School District at Minnie Cline Elementary and for meals to be included at all program sites.◆

PLAN TO ATTEND TASTE OF UNITED WAY LUNCHES



Taste of United Way, a monthly luncheon series, is designed to give community members a closer look at United Way Partner Agencies and Initiatives and is proving to be popular. Attendance continues to grow each month.

You are invited to attend upcoming sessions: June 8—Big Brothers Big Sisters; July 13—Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Inc.; Aug. 10—The CENTER, A Samaritan Center; Sept. 14—United Way Community Investment; Oct. 12—Bartlett Center; Nov. 9—Children’s Mercy Hospitals and Clinics; Dec. 14—InterServ.

United Way agencies that hosted earlier this year include: American Red Cross of Northwest Missouri; Specialty Industries of St. Joseph, Inc.; YMCA; and Legal Aid of Western Missouri.

A light lunch is provided at each Taste of United Way, free of charge, thanks to generous sponsors.

Please contact Glenda Hamilton at glenda.hamilton@stjosephunitedway.org or 364-2381 for reservations and locations. Reservations are required.◆

LONG-TIME FRIENDS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SHARE UNITED WAY MEMORIES AND TO VOLUNTEER IN THE COMMUNITY

As United Way of Greater St. Joseph has reached out to senior adults during this United Way centennial year, the year’s theme has made itself evident: caring never grows old.

In February, Glenda Hamilton with United Way spoke briefly at the Silver and Gold Senior Club of Northwest Missouri (an established Meierhoffer Outreach Program) that brings together community members over the age of 60 each month to socialize and learn new things.

The group was thanked for their many years of support and was asked to recall how United Way has touched their lives.

Several attendees shared their connection with United Way Partner Agencies. Stories included those who have served as volunteers for the YWCA, as office help with American Red Cross of Northwest Missouri, as holiday bell ringers and distributors of school supplies for the Salvation Army, and as deliverers of mobile meals for

InterServ. One person had served as an advisory board member for Catholic Charities.

Others shared that they have been recipients of United Way funded services. One participant replied that she had received valuable assistance from Legal Aid of Western Missouri. Another revealed that she scheduled her first mammogram through a United Way Agency.

A retiree from a company that supports United Way said he continues to give to and volunteer for United Way and finds the experiences fulfilling.

United Way of Greater St. Joseph recognizes the talents and experiences of the senior adult population as valuable community resources. Silver and Gold Senior Club members and all long-term friends and retirees are encouraged to share United Way memories with United Way staff (364-2381) during this centennial year.◆

ALL LEADERSHIP ST. JOSEPH GRADUATES ARE INVITED TO ALUMNI SOCIAL EVENTS

United Way Leadership St. Joseph (LSJ) Alumni Socials are being held at various local establishments from 5-6:30 p.m. after each LSJ Class Day.

The socials are designed to facilitate relationship-building between the 34 United Way Leadership St.



Joseph classes.

If you are a graduate, please contact Ann at ann.weston@stjosephunitedway.org or 364-2381 for information about future events.

Johnson Controls, Inc. has been sponsoring the socials.◆

... (cont'd) MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Hospitals and Clinics. 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. No cost, but RSVP.

Dec. 14-Taste of United Way focused on InterServ. 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. No cost, but RSVP.

*Watch for more events at stjosephunitedway.org

*All RSVPs can be made to 364-3281 during office hours.◆

UNITED WAY CELEBRATES THAT CARING NEVER GROWS OLD DURING CENTENNIAL YEAR SERVING ST. JOSEPH

United Way of Greater St. Joseph is recognizing the agency's 100th year of serving the community throughout 2016.

United Way President Kylee Strough, said, "Thanks to a generous and hard-working community, United Way builds on the past, operates in the present, and aims toward a strong future for all who live here."

As part of the commemoration, highlights from each decade of operation will be shared at stjosephunitedway.org under the Publications tab.

In 1916, the St. Joseph Federation for Charity and Philanthropy (now United Way) began work in St. Joseph, Missouri. The agency helped the community come together to improve local lives in a more overarching way than individual churches, synagogues, civic groups, and agencies could do on their own. A

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Thank you to all who GIVE to United Way. You help improve thousands of lives.

TRIBUTE GIFTS

REMEMBER THE PAST. HONOR THE PRESENT.
TOUCH THE FUTURE.

The following Tribute Gift has been gratefully received by United Way of Greater St. Joseph:

In Memory of Jim Bocell-
Barbara and Stephen Wurtzler

Tribute gifts are a unique way of supporting United Way while recognizing the special people in your life. Tribute gifts may be given any time of year in memory of a loved one or in honor of a friend, colleague, or family member.

This time of year when weddings, anniversaries, and graduations fill our calendars, we are reminded that these are especially appropriate times to recognize those who mean so much to us.

To make a tribute gift to United Way of Greater St. Joseph, complete the adjacent form and return to the United Way office.

**PREPARING FAMILIES FOR
KINDERGARTEN, p. 2.**



YES, I'D LIKE TO GIVE A TRIBUTE GIFT

If you would like to celebrate the life of a family member or special friend through a memorial gift/honorarium to the United Way Endowment Fund, please complete this form and send it to Glenda Hamilton at United Way of Greater St. Joseph, P.O. Box 188, St. Joseph, MO 64502. Your gift will improve lives in our community.

Enclosed is my tribute gift of \$ _____

Given by _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Commemorating _____
(please indicate the birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion)

Please send acknowledgement to _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

The person you are honoring, or the family of the person you are remembering, will be promptly notified of your gift without mentioning the amount. Your gift may also be listed in a United Way publication unless you indicate here that you wish to remain anonymous.

Please do not list my name.

Please make your check payable to United Way of Greater St. Joseph.
Contributions are tax-deductible. Thank you!