

# By the Way, a newsletter for long-time friends of United Way

Winter 2010

## Meet United Way's New President and Campaign Director

Kylee (Dillon) Strough began serving as United Way's new President on Aug. 1, replacing Brenda Shields who resigned after four years as President. Kylee had overseen the United Way Campaign, so once she took on a new position, she led a search to hire someone else to oversee the Campaign. Angie Springs was hired as Campaign Director in mid-September.

When announcing the Board's decision to hire Kylee, Board Chair Curt Kretzinger lauded Kylee as a home-grown leader who was born and raised in St. Joseph. "She is passionate about making a difference in the community and continues to demonstrate her dedication to United Way and the community at-large," Curt said.

Strough brings five years of experience at United Way of Greater St. Joseph with her to the President's position. Strough is a Missouri Western graduate with a degree in business administration with an emphasis in marketing. She

has served on the Missouri Western State University Board of Governors since 2008 and is currently the Board Chair.

Angie, while new to the United Way Campaign Director position, is no newcomer to United Way related work. She brings eight years of professional experience with volunteers at a United Way

agency and volunteer experience with the United Way Campaign. She has a B.S. from Missouri Western State University and an A.A. from Highland Community College.

During the Campaign Victory Dinner, 2010 Campaign Chairman Todd Meierhoffer said, "Our leadership has never been so strong. Our new president, Kylee Strough, and campaign director, Angie Springs, stepped up and have exhausted every resource to lead us to a successful conclusion of this year's campaign."

Both Kylee and Angie can be reached by phone at (816) 364-2381. You are also welcome to email them [kylee.strough@stjosephunitedway.org](mailto:kylee.strough@stjosephunitedway.org) or [angie.springs@stjosephunitedway.org](mailto:angie.springs@stjosephunitedway.org).



*New Campaign Director, Angie Springs (left) and new President, Kylee Strough (right), are eager to serve the community through United Way of Greater St. Joseph.*

## New Partner Agency Announced

At the November Board meeting, the United Way Board of Directors approved Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater St. Joseph as a new United Way Partner Agency, bringing the number of United Way Partner Agencies to 19.

Big Brothers Big Sisters provides mentoring relationships to children who need and want

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## Kinderclub Attracts More Families than Ever

Parents are finding out what their children need to know before kindergarten by attending United Way KinderClub, a monthly program, sponsored by the United Way Success By 6<sup>®</sup> School Readiness Team.

United Way KinderClub is in its second school year. Last year, two dozen families attended monthly meetings at the Keatley Center. This school year, 132 families have enrolled in United Way KinderClub, which is being offered in many different St. Joseph School District buildings. Classes began in November and will continue through April 2011. St. Joseph School District kindergarten teachers are volunteering to lead the meetings and are sharing valuable academic

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... (cont'd) **Big Brothers Big Sisters** them, contributing to brighter futures, better schools, and a stronger community. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater St. Joseph submitted an application to become a United Way Partner Agency. The application was reviewed and recommended to the United Way Board by a committee of community volunteers.

“Our Board sees the important work that Big Brothers Big Sisters is doing in this community and understands the impact that mentoring children can make on all of our futures,” said Board Chair, Curt Kretzinger. “We are pleased to welcome them as a United Way Partner Agency.”

As a Partner Agency, the organization will be eligible to receive funding through the next United Way allocations cycle. Funding is made possible by dollars donated to United Way’s annual fundraising campaign. A committee of community volunteers will review the work of Big Brothers Big Sisters in the spring of 2011 and make a recommendation about the amount of funding the agency should receive in 2012. ♦

... (cont'd) **Kinderclub**

and social information for parents to use at home.

The goal is to equip parents with simple information that they can use which will improve the kindergarten readiness of children starting school next year. For additional information about United Way KinderClub, please contact Ann Weston or Bobbie Cronk at (816)364-2381. ♦



*The community pulled together to Live United. Thank you to the hundreds of volunteers, Campaign Chairman Todd Meierhoffer, and thousands of donors.*

## 2010 Campaign overcame challenges

At the Campaign Victory Dinner the evening of Nov. 4, United Way of Greater St. Joseph announced that the community had pledged \$3,377,777.77, which was \$77.77 over the \$3,377,700 goal.

When this year’s campaign total was announced at the dinner, volunteer Campaign Chair Todd Meierhoffer explained that, just hours before the event, he fully believed he would be announcing that the campaign did not reach goal. He said, “We made goal--this morning--thanks to one-time gifts being given to pull the campaign through. These gifts will not come again.”

The last-minute gifts were from organizations, trusts, and individuals who made additional, one-time commitments to this year’s campaign for the sole purpose of pulling the 2010 Campaign to the goal that would not have otherwise been met.

“We’ve been thrilled to see new donors from the community this year,” said Angie Springs, United Way Campaign Director. “We understand that some donors needed to give a little less than in past years, but new people responded to the LIVE UNITED message, understanding how important health, education, and financial stability are for everyone in our community.”

Donors, community volunteers and organizations who lend their time and talent to United Way are crucial for Campaign success.

“Thank you. That’s what we want the entire community to hear right now . . . thank you,” said United Way President, Kylee Strough. “Thousands of lives in the Greater St. Joseph Area are impacted every day of the year by the dollars contributed to the United Way Campaign.” ♦



*A few Kinderclub families listen to a lesson in between learning activities.*

## Did you know?

*United Way Volunteer Center* links local agencies who have volunteer needs with people looking to volunteer. Long or short-term volunteer opportunities are available for individuals or groups. Go to [www.stjosephunitedway.org](http://www.stjosephunitedway.org) and click on the “Volunteer” button. Or call (816) 364-2381 and ask for Linda Burns.

**Thank you for  
Living United!**

... (cont'd) **Thanks to Media**

Way and the United Way campaign:

- ☆ The City of St. Joseph
- ☆ Eagle Communications
- ☆ KQTV
- ☆ Missouri Western State University
- ☆ News-Press NOW: Channel 3 and the News-Press
- ☆ St. Joseph Cablevision
- ☆ St. Joseph School District

Local printers also played an important role in getting the United Way message into the hands of thousands of people through various in-kind donations:

- ☆ St. Joseph News-Press Gazette: NPG Printing
- ☆ Ward's Printing
- ☆ Western Robidoux, Inc.

Phil Geller Photography once again generously donated the photography for this year's campaign.

United Way thanks all the entities above for being instrumental in helping the Greater St. Joseph Community hear United Way's call to LIVE UNITED and for helping to improve lives through the caring power of community. ◆

... (cont'd) **Prescription Discount Cards**

To find a list of participating area pharmacies, visit *FamilyWize.org*.

So far, over \$242,000 has been saved by Buchanan County residents using the cards. On average, customers save 40 percent.

United Way of Greater St. Joseph provides FamilyWize cards at no cost to any entity wishing to make them available to their patients, clients, customers, or employees. Anyone may obtain a card. Just call

(816)364-2381, stop by the United Way office, look for them at clinics operated by Heartland Health and Northwest Health, or download and print a card from *FamilyWize.org*.

United Way of Greater St. Joseph is committed to improving lives through the caring power of community by focusing on education, financial stability, and health. FamilyWize cards help us advance toward financial stability and health goals. ◆



**YES, I'd like to give a Tribute Gift**

*Celebrate the life of a family member or special friend through a memorial gift/honorarium to United Way of Greater St. Joseph. Complete the form below and send it to United Way of Greater St. Joseph, Attn: Glenda Hamilton, 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!**



## Local Media Worked to Inform Community about United Way Campaign

United Way wishes to publicly thank our local media and others whose important work results in impact that simply can't be measured in dollars.

This year, our local media outlets worked to get the LIVE UNITED message to our community over and over again in a variety of ways throughout the campaign. The media heard our call when the campaign was lagging and needed more support.

Media outlets through the following entities distributed news and other information about United

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## Prescription Discount Cards Available at United Way

United Way of Greater St. Joseph now distributes discount cards to help save Buchanan County residents money on prescription medication.

The project is in partnership with the FamilyWize Prescription Discount Program, and the discount cards can be used by anyone for prescription medications regardless of insurance, government benefits, etc. Customers presenting the card at participating pharmacies will receive a discount on eligible prescription purchases.

The card is free to anyone who would like one. It can be used as often as needed, for any prescription, and for anyone in your family. No income limit, age requirement, or registration is needed. Simply present a FamilyWize card along with your prescription at a participating



pharmacy to obtain the discounted price. For those with prescription insurance, present both your insurance card and FamilyWize card and ask the pharmacist to determine which will offer the most savings.

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## 19 Partner Agencies

<b>American Red Cross</b> 232-8439	<b>Legal Aid of Western Missouri</b> 364-2325
<b>Bartlett Center</b> 233-8201	<b>Northwest Missouri Community Services</b> 364-1131
<b>Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater St. Joseph</b> 671-4090	<b>Pony Express Council, Boy Scouts of America</b> 233-1351
<b>Catholic Charities</b> 232-2885	<b>St. Joseph Safety &amp; Health Council</b> 233-3330
<b>The CENTER, A Samaritan Center</b> 364-4300	<b>Salvation Army</b> 232-5824
<b>Children's Mercy Hospital</b> 816-234-3000	<b>Specialty Industries of St. Joseph, Inc.</b> 232-8083
<b>Community Missions Corporation</b> 390-8884	<b>United Cerebral Palsy of Northwest Missouri</b> 364-3836
<b>Family Guidance Center</b> 364-1501	<b>YMCA</b> 233-YMCA (9622)
<b>Girl Scouts of Northeast Kansas and Northwest Missouri</b> 279-7438	<b>YWCA</b> 232-4481
<b>InterServ</b> 238-4511	

## 7 Initiatives/Programs

Financial Stability  
Health Efforts for Local People  
Leadership St. Joseph  
Profit in Education®  
Success By 6®  
Unmet Needs Committee  
Volunteer Center

### The United Way Endowment Fund

Call 816-364-2381 and ask how to make a charitable bequest to **United Way** so you can continue your legacy of caring forever.



**United Way  
of Greater St. Joseph**

PO Box 188  
St. Joseph, MO 64502

(816) 364-2381  
stjosephunitedway.org

*To stay up to date with how your dollars are working in the community:*

- *Become a fan of United Way of Greater St. Joseph on Facebook*
- *Follow UnitedWayStJoe on Twitter*

**GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.  
LIVE UNITED®**