

# By the Way,

a newsletter for long-time friends of United Way

Fall 2013

## PAT DILLON LIVES UNITED FOR 25 YEARS

"Working with United Way is like volunteering for 19 agencies at one time," said Pat Dillon, who first got involved with United Way of Greater St. Joseph in the late 1980s.

Pat grew up in St. Joseph, and his wife, Nancy, has supported him in his passion to improve lives through the caring power of community. Their two children have never known their dad to not be active through United Way.

"I have always held a fundamental belief that business owners should do all they can for the community that they depend on for their success,"

Pat said as he described how he was first drawn to United Way when he saw business owners volunteering for organizations in the community.



*Pat Dillon has filled many volunteer roles with United Way of Greater St. Joseph for around 25 years in addition to being a long-term donor. People who give, advocate and volunteer are LIVING UNITED through the caring power of community.*

Over the years, Pat has served in leadership roles for United Way Initiatives, as a Board member and Chair, and as the Campaign Chair just to name a few of his roles. He continues to find new ways to volunteer through United Way, even after having received the Volunteer Award honoring him for outstanding service at United Way's Annual Meeting in 2010.

This year, his employer, Heartland Health, supported his service to the United Way Campaign as a Loaned Executive. Pat remarked that being at company rallies really made him appreciate the giving attitude of our community.

"If those of us who give, advocate or volunteer have helped one person, we can smile, knowing that we have done what we are called to do," said Pat. ♦

*The United Way staff wishes each of you a Happy New Year!*

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Feb. 6, 2014—**United Way Annual Lunch Meeting**, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m.—Receive the 2013 Annual Report and usher in 2014 United Way Board leadership at Missouri Western Fulkerson Center.

\*Watch for more events on our calendar: [stjosephunitedway.org](http://stjosephunitedway.org)

Watch around town for *The Regular Joe* that contains news from United Way and United Way Partner Agencies.

## BRING JOY TO OTHERS

Are you looking for a way to bring joy to someone else during the holiday season?

Give the gift of you this season! To help you, United Way Volunteer Center has compiled a guide of holiday-specific volunteering and giving opportunities throughout the area.

Currently, 30 volunteer opportunities have been posted by area non-profits. Here is a glimpse into a

... continued on page 3

## 2013 United Way Campaign Ends With Celebration of Community Generosity

At the conclusion of the 2013 United Way Campaign, just over 200 community leaders celebrated the generosity of thousands of area people as they learned that \$3,255,680 had been raised.

Donors, volunteers and advocates were recognized for their contributions to the Campaign at the event.

"Our community gave, and lives will be improved because of these donations," said Kylee Strough, President of United Way. "We thank every single donor because every gift allows United Way and United Way Partner Agencies to improve lives."

The 2013 United Way Campaign

... continued on page 3



Members of the 31<sup>st</sup> Class of United Way Leadership St. Joseph are trained to be effective leaders in our community.

## UNITED WAY LEADERSHIP ST. JOSEPH CLASS DEVELOPS PROJECTS AND NEARS GRADUATION

In keeping with previous United Way Leadership St. Joseph work, this year's projects were varied and should be useful for the community well beyond the end of the 2013 program year.

One group worked with the American Red Cross to update a tornado awareness training video. Another created a plan for a Taste of St. Joseph event to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater St. Joseph. A third group built community awareness for a fully accessible playground project in St. Joseph. And yet another group promoted UCP Supported Employment through a business expo, flyers and a video.

Congratulations to 2013 class members for work well done:

- Jessica Agnew, *St. Joseph Convention & Visitors Bureau*
- Jennifer Brown, *Junior League and St. Joseph Title*
- Tom Burke, *KCP&L*
- T.J. Decker, *Apple Market*
- Sean DeWeese, *City of St. Joseph*
- Aaron Dixon, *Deluxe Truck Stop*
- Stacy Fisher, *Missouri Western State University*
- Kristine Gibson, *Heartland Health*
- Kristina Hannon, *Family Guidance Center*
- Jeff Harken, *City of St. Joseph*
- Brandon Holle, *US Bank*
- Brian Huff, *Heartland Health*
- Alicia Johnson, *Legal Aid of Western Missouri*
- Eric Martin, *Hillyard Industries*
- Tia Masters, *Missouri Air National Guard*
- Serena Mitchell, *Stoney Creek Inn*
- Scott Pemberton, *KCP&L*
- Katie Reid, *Nestle Purina Petcare*
- Angie Riley, *Hillshire Brands*
- Rebecca Schuster, *Johnson Controls*
- Meaghan Simpson, *Progressive Community Services*
- Amy Spaeth, *Family Guidance Center*
- Will Stuck, *St. Joseph Public Library*
- Carrie Turner, *YWCA*
- Scott Weers, *Hillshire Brands*
- Shannen White, *American Family Insurance*

The 31<sup>st</sup> class of United Way Leadership St. Joseph will conclude with a 5 p.m. celebration on Dec. 17 at Green Acres, 3500 Village Drive. Graduates from the 30 previous classes are invited to reconnect with their classmates at the celebration.

United Way Leadership builds the skills of individuals to be effective leaders in the community through an annual, year-long leadership development program for adults living or working in the St. Joseph area. The program helps create a network of trained individuals willing to engage in leadership and community service with enhanced knowledge of our community's opportunities, realities and challenges.◆



## FAMILIES PREPARE FOR KINDERGARTEN

United Way KinderClub meetings will be held in three school districts during the 2013-14 school year.

This program focuses on helping the parents of children who will begin kindergarten next August.

Early childhood educators volunteer to meet with parents and their incoming kindergarteners for five meetings. Parents learn strategies that are easy to implement at home with their children for academic and social-emotional growth.

United Way Success By 6 provides the curriculum, supplies, promotion and registration support for United Way KinderClub.

The goal of United Way Success By 6 is to prepare children to be successful learners when they begin kindergarten.◆

... (cont'd) **Allocations Process** contributions are used for the greatest impact in the areas of education, health and financial stability and that United Way of Greater St. Joseph is accountable to donors.

Volunteers are placed on one of six subcommittees, and each subcommittee typically reviews three United Way Partner Agencies. Volunteers dedicate 10-15 hours of time over a two-month period from mid-March to mid-May. Each subcommittee usually meets six times.

In 2013, over 100 volunteers from a variety of backgrounds participated in the United Way Allocations Process. Even volunteers who grew up in the area often rave about how much they learn about our community and agencies through the process.

If you're interested in being a 2014 allocations volunteer, please contact Jodi Bloemker at United Way at 364-2381 or [jodi.bloemker@stjosephunitedway.org](mailto:jodi.bloemker@stjosephunitedway.org).◆



... (cont'd) **United Way Partner Agency Tours**

second event. Two United Way Partner Agency directors, Garry Hammond and Bud Salanski, provided information about the mental health services available in our community.

In June, guests visited Safety Town at Parkway Elementary School. Safety Town is one of many programs offered by the St. Joseph Safety and Health Council. Participants went “out on the town” to observe where young children learn basic rules of safety for home, school and community and then viewed a presentation by agency director Jackie Spainhower.

The fourth and final session of 2013 took place in September at Specialty Industries, Inc. Director Gloria Thomas shared how the lives of Specialty Industries employees are enriched by the work they perform and how their work is beneficial to the companies they contract with.

Donors and volunteers who participated in these agency visits agreed that it was worthwhile to see how their contributions to United Way of Greater St. Joseph are impacting lives every day.

Lunches for the events were provided by Mr. Goodcents, Apple Market, Little Caesar’s Pizza, and Walmart #2994.

The 2014 calendar of Lunching and Learning Sessions will be published after the first of the year. If you might like to attend upcoming sessions, please contact Glenda Hamilton at 364-2381 or [glenda.hamilton@stjosephunitedway.org](mailto:glenda.hamilton@stjosephunitedway.org).◆



... (cont'd) **Holiday Giving and Volunteering**

random sampling of ways you may give or volunteer during the holidays in the area:

**Donate shoes for athletes-Special Olympics**

**Assist in the food pantry-InterServ's Calvin Center**

**Donate diapers and wipes for babies-Catholic Charities**

**Be a Toy Shop Elf-The Salvation Army**

To see all the area holiday listings, go to [stjosephunitedway.org](http://stjosephunitedway.org) and click on VOLUNTEER. The guide provides information for you to connect with specific agencies directly.

The guide will be updated as additional opportunities become available and others are filled.

The guide is provided to you by the United Way Volunteer Center, a central resource that connects the community through volunteerism. ◆

## BUSINESS AND EDUCATION KEEP SUCCEEDING TOGETHER

During its fifth year, United Way BEST (Business and Education Succeed Together) continues to expand.

The goal of the United Way BEST program is to have students learn about local businesses, the different jobs available, and the training and education required for those positions. Speakers from partner businesses emphasize that their businesses hire only high school graduates and that many of the jobs require further training.

During the 2013-14 school year, Lafayette students who participated in the program as freshmen are being connected to new businesses through tours and presentations to continue supporting them through graduation.

In addition, a version of United Way BEST has been added to three classes at Benton High School.

The program continues to be offered for students in 7-10th grades at Colgan Alternative Resource Center and for a class of freshmen at Lafayette High School.

The United Way BEST program was piloted at Lafayette High School through a grant from the AT&T Foundation in the spring of 2009. ◆



*Thank you to businesses and teachers who work for the future.*



... (cont'd) **United Way Campaign** had a goal of \$3,333,500. The Victory Dinner report was slightly less than the goal.

Patti Eiman, 2013 United Way Campaign Chair, shared that not all Campaign work is finished; volunteers are wrapping up Campaign work as the year ends.

Eiman said, “I feel extremely blessed to live in such a generous community. Thousands of donors and hundreds of volunteers have come together through the United Way Campaign, and it has been my privilege to work alongside and meet so many caring people in the community.”

The 2013 Campaign for United Way of Greater St. Joseph began on Sept. 5 and officially concluded on Nov. 7. ◆

## AGENCY TOURS PROVE TO BE POPULAR

### CONSIDER THIS

- *If you want to improve lives in Northwest Missouri and Northeast Kansas . . .*
- *If you think education, health and financial stability are important building blocks to a good quality of life . . .*
- *If you want to support the work of 19 area Partner Agencies and 7 United Way Initiatives. . .*
- *If you want to unite with others to make a significant impact in our community . . .*
- *If you care enough to make a difference . . .*

Think about making a year-end gift to United Way of Greater St. Joseph. Ninety-two cents of every dollar donated goes to local programs and services (well above Better Business Bureau suggested charitable standards). Together, our gifts improve lives every hour of every day and demonstrate just how significant the caring power of community can be.

### HELP DECIDE WHERE YOUR DOLLARS GO

Have you considered being part of determining how to best invest United Way Campaign dollars in our community?

You are invited to participate in the annual allocations process.

Through the allocations process, volunteers evaluate United Way Partner Agencies and recommend funding amounts to the United Way Board of Directors for review and final approval. The work of the volunteers ensures that donor

. . . continued on page 2

This year, 96 people attended United Way Lunching and Learning sessions which took place at four different United Way Partner Agencies.

In March, the first session took place at Community Missions. Agency Director Jeanne Archer discussed the work that takes place to equip homeless men to re-enter the workforce and to maintain housing and family relationships at Juda House and St. Joseph's Haven. Guests had the opportunity to tour the facilities following a question and answer session. Family Guidance Center hosted the

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*United Way invited the community to learn first-hand about four different United Way Partner Agencies in 2013. More agency tours are being planned for 2014.*



## 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!**