

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

Fall 2014

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

What does it mean to LIVE UNITED?

Because the question is foundational to United Way's work, we encourage all who support United Way to consider the question and the answer.

When we LIVE UNITED, we care about others, care about our community and care about our future. The idea sounds easy, but the idea can become more challenging when we consider how to turn caring into action in a unified way.

Our hope at United Way is to help the community LIVE UNITED. We invite individuals, businesses and groups to join together and care together by giving, advocating and volunteering.

Through United Way's annual



Kylee Strough, United Way President, thanks long-term donors for choosing to LIVE UNITED.

fundraising campaign, thousands of people care through financial gifts that work throughout the area every day, impacting thousands of lives through dozens of agencies. Supporters of United Way use their voices to advocate and invite others who care to LIVE UNITED. Volunteers continue to be United Way's foundation. They are the hands that act in compassion and care for others. Our volunteer network

continues to grow, recently surpassing 550 people.

We thank all United Way supporters, new and long-term, for improving lives by giving, advocating and volunteering by choosing to LIVE UNITED. ♦

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Feb. 5, 2015—United Way Annual Lunch Meeting, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m.—Receive the 2014 Annual Report and usher in 2015 United Way Board leadership at Missouri Western Fulkerson Center.

*Watch for more events on our calendar: stjosephunitedway.org



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

Sarah Ann
Kylee Karen Bobbie Jodi
Kim Tammy Linda Glenda



VOLUNTEER OR GIVE IN THE COMMUNITY DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Thoughts often turn from November thankfulness to a December spirit of giving as leaves fall, air starts to feel like winter and lights start blinking.

To help people who wish to reach out to others in December, the United Way Volunteer Center has again compiled a guide of holiday-specific volunteering and giving opportunities throughout the area.

The guide provides agency contacts for

each giving or volunteer opportunity and will be updated as additional opportunities become available and existing ones are filled.

"Non-profits in our area are positioned to impact lives, and they can sometimes do so much more effectively when volunteers work with them," said Linda Burns, United Way Director of Community Engagement. She pointed out that, while the guide is geared toward a particular season of the year, the United Way Volunteer Center exists to connect non-profits seeking volunteers with individuals and groups who are looking for service opportunities any time.

Here are just a few of the opportunities listed in this year's guide:

Deliver meals to homebound people to allow usual volunteers to have some time off- InterServ's Calvin Center

Donate gifts for mothers and children to exchange on Christmas morning at emergency shelter-YWCA

Wrap gifts at East Hills mall-fundraiser that supports Habitat for Humanity

To see all holiday listings in addition to other volunteer opportunities, go to stjosephunitedway.org and click on VOLUNTEER. Remember to check back periodically for updates. ♦

2014 LEADERSHIP ST. JOSEPH CLASS GRADUATES

The completion of the 2014 class of United Way Leadership St. Joseph (LSJ) was celebrated on Dec. 4 at Green Acres. Graduates from the previous 31 classes reconnected with each other and welcomed 28 new program graduates.

As in the past, creating project proposals for the community throughout the year's training was an important focus for this year's class members. 2014 projects and team members are listed below:

Can Cottages: Leading to a "Home That The Community CAN Build."—

One group partnered with St. Joseph Habitat for Humanity to propose the specifics of a recycling program that could help financially support the agency. The plan called for aluminum can recycling cottages to be placed at various businesses and organizations to encourage the community to live more eco-friendly and environmentally aware. If implemented, St. Joseph Habitat for Humanity could collect cans regularly, recycle them and use the funds for building a Habitat home for a low-income family.

Team members: *Christy George, Tyler Graff, Sarah Hatten, Nathan Howell, Scott Hudson and Mike Hurst.*



The 32nd class of United Way Leadership St. Joseph graduated in early December. Some of the members are pictured here, as they participated in a project for a local non-profit agency.

Know St. Joe—Another project team partnered with the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce to propose a program for summer interns to learn about St. Joseph and get involved in the community. If implemented, the proposed program would highlight St. Joseph's recreation opportunities, history and ways to volunteer. The goal of the proposed Know St. Joe project was to help interns connect with the community in order to encourage them to work, play and stay in St. Joseph.

Team members: *Ally Browning, Jessica Hagey, Ryan Hook, Melissa Lawyer, Jeff McCoy and Justin Wright.*

R³: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle—In an effort to promote the benefits of recycling, this proposal encouraged all St. Joseph City offices, as well as schools, to mandate recycling of all eligible materials including aluminum, glass, plastics, cardboard, magazines, paper and tin as accepted at the Recycling Center. The proposal aimed for a project to reduce waste, reuse materials and recycle items to lessen the current generation's carbon footprint in the future.

Team members: *Michael Belding, Kelsey Echterling, Brent Eddington, Nici Hayes, Matt Mayes and Gayle Stowers.*

Take Back the Night Fun Run and Walk—One project group researched and outlined a comprehensive plan for improving an existing 5k Walk/Run for the YWCA Victim Services Program to raise awareness of sexual assault issues and to support the work of the YWCA.

Team members: *Josh Emberton, Jess Gould, Amy Kotwani, Bryan LeRette and Andrew Windhorst.*

Urban Trail Signage—Another group proposed improved signage on St. Joseph's urban trail, specifically suggesting that signs be placed along the trail intermittently for pedestrians or bicyclists to determine distance or direction. The group researched available options and who would need to be involved to implement the idea.

Team members: *Bill Gall, Rich Mense, Doug Tschauder, John Voss and Connie Werner.*

Sponsoring businesses and organizations that supported individual class members for the year were: American Family Insurance; Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica; City of St. Joseph; Commerce Bank; CliftonLarsonAllen LLP; Green Acres Redevelopment; Mosaic Life Care; Northwest Health Services; Polsinelli P.C.; Hillyard Companies; Johnson Controls; Junior League; KCP&L; Legal Aid of Western Missouri; Liechti, Franken & Young, LLC; Missouri Western State University; Progressive Community Services; St. Joseph Habitat for Humanity; St. Joseph PTA Council; St. Joseph Public Library; St. Joseph Regional Association of Realtors; Second Harvest Community Food Bank; and United Way of Greater St. Joseph. ♦

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO READ WITH ELEMENTARY CHILDREN THROUGH EXPANDED SPRING PROGRAM



United Way Reading Adventure is modeled after Hope Outreach Ministries which has connected local children in low-income apartment complexes with volunteer readers for over 20 summers.

Volunteers are needed to read with children on a weekly basis in the spring as part of an expanded United Way Reading Adventure program.

The program recently received a grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation for expansion into two local Title I elementary schools: Lake Contrary and Humboldt.

United Way Reading Adventure has been a summer reading program designed to help children maintain reading skills when they are not in school.

Through the Dollar General Literacy Foundation grant, United Way Reading Adventure will be held in the spring. All second graders at the two schools will read with volunteers on a weekly basis to help children improve reading skills. In addition, students will receive grade-level appropriate books to keep to build their home library and to encourage reading at home.

If you are interested in being a volunteer reader, please contact Jodi at 364-2381. ♦



Adam Stein served as this year's Campaign Chair and said he was humbled to work with volunteers every step of the way. He is the Broker/ Owner at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Stein and Summers Real Estate.

UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN REACHES 2014 GOAL

The 2014 United Way Campaign met the \$3,145,000 goal thanks to the hard work and dedication of hundreds of volunteers and thousands of donors.

The community pledged \$3,145,542, surpassing the goal by \$542.

"I'm overwhelmed by the community support I saw during this year's campaign, and the small margin the goal was surpassed by was a clear message to me that every contribution matters," said Adam Stein.

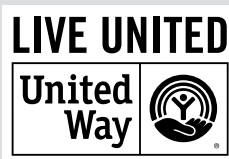
Nearly 200 people attended the Nov. 6 United Way Campaign Victory Dinner at Missouri Western's Fulkerson Center to celebrate the generosity of thousands in our community. ♦

United Way Crystal Circle

New record:

This year, more than 575 people are United Way Crystal Circle members (donors who give \$1,000 or more). Together, these people pledged \$908,944 of the \$3,145,542 total gifts to the 2014 United Way Campaign.

Thank you to EVERY donor for coming together as the caring power of community!



United Way of Greater St. Joseph
stjosephunitedway.org

Leading the Greater St. Joseph community towards lasting change

KINDERGARTEN PREPARATION STARTS IN THE EARLIEST YEARS OF LIFE AND IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Several area schools have begun their United Way Success By 6[®] KinderClub meetings, and many others will begin after the beginning of the new year.

The program allows teachers to help equip parents to prepare their children successfully for kindergarten.

Parents bring their soon-to-be-kindergarten children to United Way KinderClub meetings at their own school to learn more about developmental reading, writing, math and social behaviors. Many kindergarten teachers from the St. Joseph, Savannah, and Mid-Buchanan school districts volunteer to lead evening meetings at their individual schools and at a centrally-located school for families served by a school not offering the program.

Research shows how critical the early years are in setting the stage for life and that children who enter kindergarten with the foundation to learn are likely to succeed and reach their full potential.

"Preparing for kindergarten starts now, and it starts with all of us," said Bobbie Cronk, United Way Director of Children's Initiatives. Cronk encourages everyone to spread the word about the importance of early childhood and to share information about United Way KinderClub with families who have young children.

United Way KinderClub is in its sixth year of serving families.

The meeting schedule can be found at stjosephunitedway.org or by calling Bobbie at 364-2381. ♦



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 Gifts have been gratefully received by United Way of Greater St. Joseph:

In Memory of Vern Balak-

Commerce Bank, Ashland Branch
Employees
Joe and Noreen Houts
Amy and Patrick Ryan

In Memory of Phillip Hass-

Clark Construction
Belinda Kempf
Midland Empire Home Builders

In Memory of Jack Heubher-

Ron and Molly Griffin

In Memory of Millie Humphreys-

Cochran Head Vick & Co., PC

In Memory of Ola June-

Audrey and Paul Shandley

In Memory of Marvin Nelson-

Jane and Lyman Frick

In Memory of Robert B. Palmer-

Marjorie Palmer

In Memory of John D. Pickett-

Gilbert Pickett

In Memory of Ann F. Vare-

Anonymous
Jeffrey D. Clapp
Commerce Bank
Commerce Bank Employees
Mary Flanigan
Hillyard Companies
Corky and Keith Marquart
Mike Meyers
Penske Racing South, Inc.
Amy and Patrick Ryan

LUNCH AND LEARN IN COMING YEAR

You will have the opportunity to familiarize yourself with specific services provided by 12 community organizations during the 2015 Lunching and Learning with United Way Partner Agencies series.

Sessions will take place the second Wednesday of each month from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Participants will be able to see agencies that United Way contributions support. A light lunch will be provided free of charge, but reservations will be required due to space limitations.

The schedule for the first six months of 2015 is:

Jan. 14-Bartlett Center

Feb. 11-Children's Mercy Hospital
(at Mosaic Life Care)

March 11-YMCA (location still to be determined)

April 8-Salvation Army

May 13-United Cerebral Palsy

June 10-Boy Scouts (at Camp Geiger)

To reserve a spot or for more information, contact Glenda at 364-2381 or glenda.hamilton@stjosephunitedway.org. ♦



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!