

By the Way,

 a newsletter for long-time friends of United Way

Fall 2015

FIND THE RIGHT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Have you embraced volunteering as part of your life yet?

Not only does volunteerism help others, but most anyone of any age can benefit from serving as a volunteer.

Jay Martin, United Way Program Director, said, "With the right match, a person can find friends, serve the community, learn new skills, and even advance a career."

United Way Volunteer Center is the place to connect with volunteer opportunities in the St. Joseph area. Individuals, groups, and organizations have been turning to United Way Volunteer Center online to find opportunities that match their interests, skills and passions since 2009.

For the last few months, United Way Volunteer Center has been using a new website system to help volunteers find opportunities more easily than before.

Martin said, "United Way is working to increase the number of nonprofits registering volunteer opportunities and is hoping the site will become the first place people look for opportunities."

To find volunteer opportunities, go to stjosephunitedway.org and click on the "Volunteer" button.

Martin encourages people to check in often with United Way Volunteer Center online as local nonprofits update their needs throughout the year. He said some opportunities are suitable for individuals, and others may work well for families or groups who wish to volunteer together. Opportunities vary from agency to agency and can be found for almost any circumstance: indoor, outdoor, one-time, recurring, etc.

To learn more, contact Jay at jay.martin@stjosephunitedway.org or call (816) 364-2381. ♦



Some American Family employees volunteered together for different projects this year. To find volunteer opportunities with nonprofits throughout the community, go to stjosephunitedway.org and click on the "Volunteer" button.



AGENCIES COLLABORATE FOR GREATER IMPACT

United Way and United Way Partner Agencies work together regularly to improve lives in our community.

While each agency has its own programs and services, agencies collaborate for the greater good of the client whenever possible.

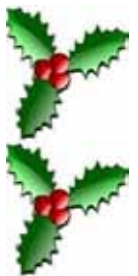
Through the United Way Unmet Needs Committee, for example, a variety of agencies and community members come together to connect people to resources for the purpose of solving immediate needs with lasting impact. The committee meets on a monthly basis to consider cases for which there are

... continued on page 2

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Feb. 4, 2016—United Way Annual Lunch Meeting to kick off United Way's Centennial Year, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m.—Receive the 2015 Annual Report and usher in 2016 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 Kylee Bobbie Jodi Ann
Kim Karen Tammy Jay Glenda

UNITED WAY SUCCESS BY 6 HELPS BRING PARENT-CHILD ACTIVITIES TO AREA

United Way Success by 6® regularly works with other agencies to bring fun, parent/child learning activities to the area.

This school year was kicked off with a literacy celebration and hot dog party that attracted more than 400 people. United Way joined forces with the St. Joseph Public Library, Kiwanis Club, and St. Joseph School District Parents as Teachers to provide literacy focused activities, free books, and hot dogs to families with children 6 years of age and younger.

In September, United Way, Deffenbaugh, and St. Joseph police and fire departments put on a National Service Day Celebration for kids and parents to meet a few of the people who serve our community and to see equipment they use.

Parents as Teachers teamed up with United Way again in November with a *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* Party to celebrate the beloved children's book by the same name. Parents as Teachers created fun activities assembled by American Family volunteers. Every family received a free copy of *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin, Jr. and John Archambault.

More events are planned for the spring. Encourage families with young children you know to join United Way Success By 6 for an event that focuses on trains in January and for a Dr. Seuss birthday party in February. Contact Jay at 364-2381 or jay.martin@stjosephunitedway.org with questions. ♦



Debra Bradley and her daughter attended the Chicka Chicka Boom Boom party, one of several local parent-child activities.

... (cont'd) AGENCIES WORK TOGETHER

few or no resources. Sometimes a need is so great that multiple entities can best help clients together.

Jodi Bloemker, United Way Director of Community Investment, said, "Collaboration is foundational for United Way, and our United Way Partner Agencies excel at working together as they serve people in our community."

Outside of the United Way Unmet Needs Committee, United Way Partner Agencies cooperate with each other as well. For example, individuals and families living in the YWCA Shelter for Abused and Homeless Women and Children or at the Salvation Army Booth Center Shelter benefit from agency partnership. While living in a shelter, some residents may receive mental health care through Family Guidance Center or The CENTER and/or need assistance for orders of protection or custody through Legal Aid. All five agencies are United Way Partners. Once residents transition from emergency shelter, they may find transitional or permanent, supportive housing through other United Way Partner Agencies.

"A continuum of care that includes multiple, cooperating agencies creates a strong support network for individuals and families striving for a brighter and more stable future," said Bloemker. ♦

UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN REACHES 2015 GOAL

Our community raised \$3,154,629.¹³ for the 2015 United Way Campaign, which exceeded the goal by \$304.¹³

2015 Campaign Chair Jason Horn said, "I'm so proud of the hundreds of volunteers and thousands of donors who help our community grow stronger by choosing to LIVE UNITED."

In addition to individual and corporate gifts, several special events helped make this year's campaign a success; a jersey auction at the end of a St. Joseph Mustangs' game; East Hills Shopping Center Shopping Extravaganza; Missouri Western Paint It Gold collecting donations for United Way; the 4th Annual Pony Express Run held in partnership with the Junior League of St. Joseph; Flick on the Field at Phil Welch Stadium sponsored by Sandlot Strategic and the St. Joseph Mustangs; Eat. Drink. LIVE UNITED. at all St. Joseph McDonald's locations; and a tailgate for United Way ahead of the Missouri Western vs. Northwest Missouri State University football game hosted by Local Joe's Barbecue team with food contributions from Affiliated Foods, Triumph Foods, and Tyson Foods.

United Way notes the important mix of new donors and events with more established ones. "Whether your decision to give this year is a usual decision of yours, or whether you are a new donor, the gifts are equally important and appreciated," Horn said. ♦

The Community Needs Us:



For some fun, this year's Campaign events incorporated a baseball theme. This slide prepared for the Campaign Victory Dinner reports the 2015 Campaign results. Thank you to everyone who gives to United Way. Your gifts improve area lives.

... (cont'd) 2015 LSJ CLASS PROJECTS

The group proposed a playground downtown at Felix Street Square. The playground could give children who live in the area and children who attend downtown events with their parents a place to play. Additionally, the playground could improve the look of the area, helping build the reputation of downtown as a family-friendly area.

Group members: *Beth Conway, Michelle Fagerstone, Jordan Hiatt, Travis Perkins, Aaron Sorensen, and Jennie Stewart.*

Advisor: *Linda Burns*

Griffon Edge Downtown Revitalization—In an effort to strengthen St. Joseph's downtown revitalization, the group chose to work with incoming freshmen at Missouri Western State University through the Griffon Edge Program. Every fall, Griffon Edge provides approximately 3,500 volunteer hours through a Day of Service, which Dr. Robert Vartabedian, President of Missouri Western State University, dedicated to downtown revitalization efforts in 2015. After participating in the Griffon Edge Day of Service at the beginning of the fall semester, this United Way Leadership St. Joseph group identified potential, future downtown revitalization projects that could include Missouri Western State University. Group members: *Tiffany Burnes, Nikki Conroy, Sam Ghatasheh, David Grable, Tara Hushbeck, Mark Sander, and Michael Venenga.*

Advisor: *Sean DeWeese*

Play It Forward—One group focused on developing a program aimed to benefit area youth. Play It Forward is a drive to collect gently used or new sports equipment for underprivileged youth. All collections will be available to area youth who might not otherwise have access to equipment. The program also provides the community with a way to recycle old equipment and support youth sports experiences.

Group members: *LaRae Bird, Brad Campbell, Tyler Hardie, Beth Keaveny, Bob Mallett, and Jody Stewart.*

Advisor: *Josh Emberton*

The Difference a Big Can Make—One group partnered with Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Joseph (BBBS) to increase awareness of the program in our community. They worked with BBBS and volunteers to determine the best messaging and avenues of recruitment to increase the number of Bigs enrolled in the program. The group presented the results of their research to BBBS with specific, suggested messaging, proposed tools to use for recruitment, and ideas for BBBS special events.

Group Members: *Bryan Cook, John Hickman, Stacy Holmes, Jessica Jackson, Jeff Smith, and Stephanie Sutton.*

Advisors: *Katie Reid and Ann Weston*

Sponsoring businesses and organizations that supported individual class members for the year were: Altec Industries; American Family Mutual Insurance Company; BMO Harris Bank; Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica; Candlewood Suites Saint Joseph; Cintas; CliftonLarsonAllen LLP; Commerce Bank; Hillyard Companies; Johnson Controls, Inc.; Junior League of St. Joseph; KCP&L; Mosaic Life Care; Nestle Purina Petcare; St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce; St. Joseph Convention and Visitors' Bureau; St. Joseph PTA Council; Second Harvest Community Food Bank; Tyson Foods, Inc.; and US Bank. ♦



TASTE UNITED WAY IN 2016

The 2016 schedule of Taste of United Way will be announced soon.

Taste of United Way is a series of monthly sessions designed to educate the community about the work of the 18 United Way Partner Agencies and seven United Way Initiatives. Each month, a different agency or initiative hosts the midday meeting and presents a program detailing provided services. A light lunch is included free of charge; reservations are required due to space limitations.

The 2015 Taste of United Way series proved popular with a diverse cross section of community members.

Topics from 2015 included: rebuilding lives of homeless men through Community Missions Corporation; unveiling the new Thrift Store at the Salvation Army; serving local needs via telemedicine through Children's Mercy at Mosaic Life Care; educating children with special needs at United Cerebral Palsy; and sharing the new YMCA campus near the North Village Shoppes.

Please check stjosephunitedway.org for upcoming dates, focus agencies, and locations. For more information, contact Glenda at 364-2381 or glenda.hamilton@stjosephunitedway.org. ♦

2015 LEADERSHIP ST. JOSEPH CLASS GRADUATES

The completion of the 2015 class of United Way Leadership St. Joseph was celebrated on Dec. 10 at Green Acres.

Graduates from the previous 32 classes reconnected with each other and welcomed 25 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. 2015 project and team members are listed below:

Felix Street Square Playground—One group incorporated three different topics: youth in the community, the renovation of downtown, and the public's negative perception of downtown.

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Group projects help United Way Leadership St. Joseph participants learn about and help the community. Some of the 2015 class of 25 members pose here at the end of one their activities. Four community projects were proposed by this year's graduating class.



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.

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 Honor of Janet Lucas

Lois Lucas

In Memory of Leon Henderson-

Anna Henderson

In Memory of Robert Palmer-

Marjorie Palmer

In Memory of Gerald Duty

Barbara and Stephen Wurtzler

Tribute Gifts are a wonderful way to honor the special people in your life while impacting the lives of others in our community. These special gifts can be made in memory or in honor of family and friends as well as in commemoration of special events.

During this season of giving, please consider a Tribute Gift to United Way.

To make a Tribute Gift to United Way of Greater St. Joseph, please complete the adjacent form and return it to the United Way office.

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!