

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

Spring 2014

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- June 11-Lunching & Learning with **United Way Partner Agencies** focused on Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Inc.
 - June 27-Eat. Drink. **LIVE UNITED.** The Truck Stop at Felix Street Square.
 - July-**United Way Reading Adventure** at five elementary schools.
 - July 9-Lunching & Learning with **United Way Partner Agencies** focused on Legal Aid of Western Missouri.
 - July 22-Eat. Drink. **LIVE UNITED.** Ground Round Grill & Bar.
 - Aug. 1-2-**STUFF THE BUS!** at both St. Joseph Wal-Mart locations.
 - Aug. 13-Lunching & Learning with **United Way Partner Agencies** focused on Big Brothers Big Sisters.
 - Sept. 4-**United Way Campaign Kickoff** at Missouri Western Fulkeron Center.
 - Sept. 6-**Walk. Run. LIVE UNITED. 5K/10K** at Missouri Western State University.
 - Sept. 25-1st **United Way Campaign Report** at Prudential Summers Realtors.
 - Oct. 23-2nd **United Way Campaign Report** lunch at Grace Evangelical Church.
 - Nov. 6-**United Way Campaign Victory Dinner** at Missouri Western Fulkeron Center.
- *More at stjosephunitedway.org ◆

MEET THE CAMPAIGN CHAIR

Adam Stein, 2014 United Way Campaign Chair, has already been working to strengthen the long-standing fundraising tradition that enables our community to financially support lasting change throughout Northwest Missouri and Northeast Kansas.



Adam Stein, Broker/Owner at Prudential Summers REALTORS, is leading the Greater St. Joseph area as the volunteer 2014 United Way Campaign Chair.

Early this year, he began meeting with a team of volunteers to develop the annual Campaign.

Through this spring's United Way Lunching & Learning series, Adam has toured several of the 19 United Way Partner Agencies.

Adam said, "I'm excited that chairing this year's United Way Campaign is allowing me to see first-hand how Campaign dollars impact the lives of so many people in our community." He invites others to learn more about services and programs in the area as well.

Adam was selected as the Campaign Chair because he is passionate about

servicing this community and improving lives of those who live here. Adam said, "This community has people who need the extra support, and I feel it's important to help them."

Adam moved to St. Joseph in 2007 and has been an active supporter of United Way ever since, volunteering for Allocations, Campaign Review Team, Building Committee, and the Board of Directors.

He and his wife, Sara, are proud of the Greater St. Joseph area and are

happy to be raising their three young children around so many caring people. Adam is the Broker/Owner at Prudential Summers, REALTORS.

He encourages the community to support United Way of Greater St. Joseph. Adam said, "I hope the United Way Campaign has the support of the community and its leaders. United Way is important and needs everyone's support to continue being strong for all of us who live here." ◆

UNITED WAY CONTINUES DEVELOPING LEADERS WHO IMPACT THE COMMUNITY

Community leaders of tomorrow are being cultivated today. This year, 30 adults are being trained through United Way Leadership St. Joseph.

Since 1982, over 700 people have participated in the United Way Leadership St. Joseph program. The year-long program builds the skills of individuals for effective leadership in our community. It is designed to increase the participant's knowledge of St. Joseph's needs and opportunities. Class members learn to build partnerships and the process of developing a project.

Many projects and program participants continue to have a positive impact

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United Way Leadership St. Joseph Class of 2014 began the year by building confidence in each other and learning about communication.

COMMUNITY RECOGNIZED FOR LIVING UNITED THROUGH UNITED WAY

Several individuals and businesses were recognized for their support at the 2014 United Way Annual Meeting.

Special award winners were announced: 2013 Spirit of Community Award (honoring one exemplary business each year for outstanding community service and support of United Way)-Nodaway Valley Bank; 2013 Outstanding Partner Award (honoring one area business or organization each year that has shown an exceptional history of partnership with United Way)-KCP&L; and the 2013 Outstanding Volunteer Award (honoring exemplary volunteers each year for outstanding volunteer service through United Way)-Rick Gronniger.

United Way 2014 Board officers elected

were: Seth Wright, Chair; Roger Martin, Vice Chair; Amy Ryan, Secretary; and Jason Horn, Treasurer.

Board members elected at the meeting were: Ron Auxier, Debra Bradley, David Brax, Mike Dalsing, Patti Eiman, Ron Hook, Jason Horn, Bob Pritchett, Dennis Rosonke and Lisa Weil. The 2014 United Way Board consists of 32 members.

The following people retired from their service on the United Way Board: Brett Carolus, Chris Connally, Bill Ellis, Bill Severn, Tom Tewell, Bill Titcomb and Mike Veale.

People stepping down from Chair positions were: Patti Eiman, 2013 Campaign Chair; Mary Beth Revels, 2013 Leadership St. Joseph Steering Committee Chair; Amy Ryan, 2013 Community Investment Council Co-Chair; Bill Severn, 2013 Community Initiatives Chair and 2013 Marketing Committee Chair; Mike Veale, 2013 Government Relations Chair; and Seth Wright, 2013 Bylaws Review Committee Chair.

The 622 people who volunteered their time through United Way in 2013 were thanked for LIVING UNITED. ◆

TEACHERS AND PARENTS HELP PREPARE THIS FALL'S KINDERGARTENERS

Ten early childhood teachers from the St. Joseph School District have volunteered to lead five sessions of United Way Kindergarten Jumpstart this summer.

Parents and their soon-to-be kindergartner will attend sessions to learn more about developmental reading, writing, math, and social skills.

Each session will begin with a children's story. The activities which follow the story will focus on specific objectives which can be easily replicated at home. The teachers will also give parents ideas on how to expand the activities to the next level for each child. At the end of each session, each child will receive his/her own copy of the book used at the beginning of the session to start or expand the child's home library.

United Way Success By 6® sponsors this series by providing coordination, promotion, and all supplies used during the sessions.

Since summer 2008, United Way Kindergarten Jumpstart has been one of Success By 6's many different collaborative efforts to help prepare children to be successful learners when entering kindergarten. ◆



Appearing here: 2014 United Way Board members at first meeting. Members of the Board are elected to oversee United Way of Greater St. Joseph. They are examples of how our community can LIVE UNITED.

LUNCH AND LEARN WITH UNITED WAY PARTNER AGENCIES

YOU ARE INVITED!

You are invited to attend the 2014 Lunching & Learning with United Way Partner Agencies series.

These sessions began in March and are designed to provide donors, volunteers, and the community at-large the opportunity to learn more about the work of specific United Way Partner Agencies. Participants are learning first-hand how United Way contributions impact the community and are becoming aware of volunteer opportunities at the various agencies.

Lunch is provided free of charge, but reservations are required due to space limitations. Sessions begin at 11:45 a.m. and last one hour.

The remaining dates and agencies of focus are: June 11-Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Inc.; July 9-Legal Aid of Western Missouri; Aug. 13-Big Brothers Big Sisters. To RSVP, contact Glenda Hamilton at United Way. ◆

... (cont'd) **Leadership and Projects Serve the Community, Training Through United Way**

These photos show a few projects made possible by people trained through United Way Leadership St. Joseph over the past several years.



on the community today.

Some United Way Leadership St. Joseph class projects that have had a life in the community beyond the class include the following:

- In 2012, a group proposed the Diaper Depot to AFL-CIO Community Services. The Diaper Depot began giving diapers to low-income families in November of 2013. By early March, 4,187 diapers had already been distributed. The program is still developing.

- In 2009, a group researched options for pet waste pick-up stations along the River Walk. The partners they brought together have maintained the stations and have installed additional Dogi Pots throughout the St. Joseph Parkway System.

- In 2007, a group created connections and partnerships to bring a nationally recognized mentoring program to St. Joseph. Their work was the beginning of the local Big Brothers Big Sisters.

- In 2002, a group proposed signage for the St. Joseph Parkway System that was adopted and is being used to improve access and to increase use of the Parkway.

- In 2002, a group partnered with the St. Joseph School District and Second Harvest Community Food Bank to implement a program that would provide students identified as food-insecure with a

backpack full of kid-friendly, nutritious and non-perishable foods. The project evolved into Second Harvest Community Food Bank's Backpack Buddies that still serves local children.

This year's United Way Leadership St. Joseph participants share a common bond with past classes; they desire to develop community leadership skills. They have met once a month since the two-day January retreat. They have become aware of available, essential services such as resource and referral, housing for the homeless, and food for those without. They have also learned about many of the community health improvement collaborations taking place throughout St. Joseph and about services available for people with disabilities or mental health challenges. They will continue to meet monthly until graduation in December.

The Class of 2014 consists of the following participants:

- Michael Belding**, *Green Acres Redevelopment*
- Ally Browning**, *Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica*
- Wendy Czerwonka**, *St. Joseph School District*
- Kelsey Echterling**, *Progressive Community Services*
- Brent Eddington**, *Heartland Health*
- Josh Emberton**, *Polsinelli P.C.*
- Bill Gall**, *Johnson Controls*
- Christy George**, *St. Joseph Habitat for Humanity*

Jessica Gould, *St. Joseph Public Library*
Tyler Graff, *Northwest Health Services*
Jessica Hagey, *Heartland Health*
Sarah Hatten, *United Way of Greater St. Joseph*

Nici Hayes, *PTA Council and Department of Mental Health*
Ryan Hook, *Commerce Bank*
Nathan Howell, *CliftonLarsonAllen*
Scott Hudson, *St. Joseph Regional Association of Realtors and Reece and Nichols Ide Capital Realty*

Mike Hurst, *KCP&L*
Amy Kotwani, *Missouri Western State University*

Melissa Lawyer, *Junior League and Legal Aid of Western Missouri*
Bryan LeRette, *Heartland Health*
Matt Mays, *City of St. Joseph*
Jeff McCoy, *KCP&L*

Rich Mense, *Hillyard Companies*
Gayle Stowers, *Second Harvest Community Food Bank*
Hannah Strasser, *City of St. Joseph*
Doug Tschauer, *Legal Aid of Western Missouri*

John Voss, *American Family Insurance*
Connie Werner, *City of St. Joseph*
Andy Windhorst, *Commerce Bank*
Justin Wright, *Liechti, Franken & Young, LLC*

The 2015 United Way Leadership St. Joseph application will be posted to the United Way website in the fall. Interested candidates can learn more by contacting Linda Burns at United Way. ♦

BOOKS AND JULY VOLUNTEERS CALLED FOR

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 the father of

Dr. Arghoob Abbas -

Heartland Regional Medical Center
Medical Staff

In Memory of William Boor-

Scott and Pam Billings
Loren Boor and Family

In Memory of Joan D. Chipps-

Walter D. Chipps

In Memory of Phillip Hass, Sr.-

Scott and Maria Burnham
Cardinal Courtesy Fund of Pickett
Elementary School
Friends of CBIZ
Commerce Bank
D.C. Cummings
Judy Davison
Robert and Carol Housh
Fay Howie
Jean and Fay Howie
David Johnson and Farris Anne
Bechter
John and Judith Linscott
Francis and Donna Schoenfelder
Jerry and Judy Simmons
Mitch Sykes Family
Ronnie and Wanda Sykes
Larry and Linda Wagner
Barbara Wharton
Doug and Lisa Wilson
John Young

In Memory of Howard E. Nagle-

Charles and Barbara Moran

In Memory of Barbara Sprong-

Charlie and Patti Burri

In Memory of Kathleen Woods-

Bobbie Cronk
Shirley Lynch
St. Francis Apts. Resident Council
Charlie and Brenda Shields

In Honor of Bobbie Jo Violett-

Telia Upshaw

United Way Reading Adventure is calling for volunteers to read in July during one-hour-a-week sessions at Skaith,



Every week in July 2013, an average of 100 volunteers read with 250 children at five schools.

Pickett, Eugene Field, Hosea, and Parkway elementary schools.

United Way will again partner with the St. Joseph School District Explorer Kids Summer Program to

match children in the Explorer's program with reading volunteers.

Participating students will receive free books throughout the summer to encourage reading at home and to help build their home libraries.

United Way Reading Adventure is a program of United Way Profit In Education® that aims to help children maintain literacy skills during the summer when they are out of school.

Individuals and organizations interested in volunteering to read or donating books may contact Jodi Bloemker at United Way. ♦



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!**