

Surviving the Economic Crisis



United Way 2-1-1™:
Linking Individuals in
Need with Local
Resources.

At a time when family budgets are stretched thin, social service organizations are struggling to meet increased needs amidst declining donations.

- Want to help? Give to United Way.
- Need help? Contact United Way 2-1-1™.

The economy is having an impact on our local citizens. Many people who never needed help in the past are now looking for assistance and don't know where to start. If you or someone you know needs help, just **dial 2-1-1**. It's free, confidential and available 24/7. United Way's 2-1-1 call center connects people to information and referral specialists who in turn, connect callers to local community resources.

Trained information specialists and volunteers can connect you to local community resources including:

Childcare	Healthcare	Senior services
Counseling	Housing	Transportation
Crisis response	Legal help	Youth services
Food	Mental health	

Multilingual lines are available 24 hours a day. Just dial 2-1-1 from any land line or 1-800-543-7709 from any cell phone.

Beginning December 29th, our United Way office will have full-color 2-1-1 posters and calling cards available if you would like to post them at your organization ([click here](#) to view these materials). To order these free materials and help spread the word about this free service, call our office at 345-4551 or email us at mankatouw@mankatounitedway.org.

Times are tough. Get help finding out where you can turn. Call 2-1-1.



On our way to
our 2009
Campaign Goal
of \$1,876,151:

86% to goal

\$1,614,272

Give.

Since our last eNewsletter, the following businesses dug deep with new 2009 Corporate Heart Club pledges:



Abdo, Eick & Meyers
Blethen, Gage & Krause
C & S Supply
Coloplast Corporation
Eide Bailly
The Free Press
Johnson Outdoors
LarsonAllen, LLP
McClure Insurance Agency
Midwest Electric
Wells Federal Bank

Advocate.

Talk about the free help line service **2-1-1** with co-workers, family, and friends. Help spread the word that this free service is available for finding resources in our area and **LIVE UNITED** with your community.

LIVE UNITED

Interested in putting the LIVE UNITED concept into words? Listen in on the [LIVE UNITED theme song](#) (just click on the play button next to "Listen").



"We have all heard that the world is full of problems. But it's also filled with people who can solve them!"

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Companies are still going strong with their employee campaign results. Thanks to everyone for their support of United Way and the following companies for their increased employee giving for 2009:

Abdo, Eick & Meyers up 21.9%
Eide Bailly up 11.9%
LarsonAllen, LLP up 4.8%

Campaign Tip

For any donors who would like to use their gift as a tax deduction for 2008, be sure that all checks dated 2008 are in our office before year-end and that any pledge cards with a direct billing request also be turned in as soon as possible!

If you have any questions about year-end pledges, please call the Greater Mankato Area United Way office at 345-4551.

Farewell Message from Betsy Homan, GMAUW Resource Development Director

As I start a new adventure in my life, I leave Greater Mankato Area United Way with a heavy heart. I leave with a heavy heart because of you - the people of the Greater Mankato area. Each day I was rewarded with the chance to go out to companies and meet so many of you. I was able to share with you the amazing things that are happening because of your generosity and commitment to making a difference. You all have been a true inspiration on what it means to "LIVE United" - through helping on a workplace campaign to volunteering at a partner agency to supporting United Way financially - each and every one of you are making a difference.



Chinese Philosopher Lao Tzu quoted, *"The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step."* I thank you for taking that first step. Sometimes, it is easier to look away when a child is unable to read because it isn't our child or when a family loses a home in a fire because it isn't our home, but you have chosen to take that first step through your commitment to making a difference.

I will forever cherish the memories we made, the laughs we shared, and the impact that we are creating together!

Volunteer.

Awesome volunteer opportunities are available for people looking to get involved in the community. Enjoy arts and crafts? Volunteer to help youth create different types of art projects at [Project Gem](#). Good at mending? Help with mending and ironing clothes for [Harry Meyering Center](#).

[Click Here](#) for lots more volunteer opportunities!

Community Impact

Corner Update from Katie Boone, GMAUW's Community Impact Director:

During the holiday season, it can be a great time to celebrate with family and friends and be grateful for all you have. It can also be a stressful time for families that aren't able to provide everything they'd like to be able to. This holiday season consider giving a gift of your time that can mean so much to someone else.

Not sure where to start? [Click Here](#) to view many meaningful Volunteer Opportunities in our community and make a difference in someone's life this holiday season.

Our community is strong because of how we care for one another. Thanks for the role you play!

-Katie Boone

OPEN YOUR HEART.
Reach out your hand and influence a young person. Volunteer for one hour; for a day. **Use your voice for someone less fortunate.** **GIVE TO THE UNITED WAY.**