



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

91.1% to goal

\$1,708,940

PERSEVERING IN TRYING TIMES

A message from **Laura Bowman**,
President of Greater Mankato Area United Way

Despite our fledgling economy and the uncertainty of what lies ahead for our community and nation, I am humbled by the generosity of more than 300 volunteers and thousands of individuals and businesses who renewed their financial commitment towards United Way's annual campaign. While we are confident we will increase our campaign revenues over last year, it will take every last individual and corporate contribution to reach that goal.



It is a great time of need in our community, perhaps unparalleled to any other recent time. People who never needed help before are, for the first time, seeking support from our community. I want to thank you for doing your part in being there for your neighbors, friends, co-workers and people you don't even know and will never meet.

United Way envisions a community of people living united to better our community. By volunteering and donating to United Way, you have reached out a hand to someone, and have influenced the condition of all. Best wishes for a happy and healthy new year.

CAMPAIGN BEST PRACTICES

MTU Onsite Energy changes it up for a personal touch MTU Onsite Energy, formerly Katolight, did something different for their employee campaign this year..and what a difference it made!

MTU Onsite Energy's campaign volunteers talked about how they were able to achieve such great results. "Last year, a letter was distributed to all employees with pledge cards to collect funds to help support the United Way, but this year, we wanted to give our employees a more personal and candid look into some of the local organizations that the United Way supports. We held rallies on (3) different dates

Give.

Since our last eNewsletter, the following businesses joined the 2009 Corporate Heart Club:

All American Towing Company
Atwood Property Management
Coloplast Manufacturing US
Event Decor & More
Exclusively Diamonds
Hiniker Homes
Jones Metal Products
Lor Ray Drive Dental Group
Maschka Riedy & Ries Law Firm
Nationwide Farmland Insurance
Valley News Co.
Xcel Energy

Advocate.

Anyone can **champion the cause**. Whether you're speaking out to improve education, income and health, reaching out to members of your community, or wearing the LIVE UNITED shirt to show your support, you can help inspire hope and create opportunities for a better tomorrow. So go ahead and advocate in a LIVE UNITED world. Do it in public. Be visible.

Volunteer.

Want to make a difference, simply by giving of your time? Volunteering can provide you the opportunity to **give** of yourself, but **get** so much more in return.

[Wellcome Manor](#) is looking for volunteers to spend special time with their families. Or be a STEP force volunteer with [ISJ - MHS](#) for an opportunity that will have you on the go! There are so many ways to get involved in our community. Why not [browse through the volunteer opportunities](#) and see if anything resonates with you?

and times to accommodate all employee shifts. Several United Way partner agencies came to the rallies to share their stories and give our employees first-hand information about what is made possible because of United Way funding. A personal investment by both the United Way-supported organizations and MTU Onsite Energy employees increased our employee pledge dollars by more than 34% this year, and the number of pledging employees grew significantly. We have always been proud to support local organizations and are grateful for the continued generosity of our employees to support human service needs in our community."

Thank you, MTU Onsite Energy, for investing in Your Community by giving to United Way!

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

Open Door Health Center focuses on prevention

The Open Door Health Center seeks to provide care to uninsured and under-insured people in southern Minnesota. They offer clinic, dental and medication assistance services at minimal fees, based on family size and income. But perhaps one of their most important roles as a community health center is to educate patients about the importance and availability of preventative care. This can make such a difference in keeping people healthy & well, despite economic disparities, and is so crucial in being able to diagnose conditions early and in addressing concerns before the condition develops into a very serious disease.

So who are the patients that ODHC sees? Patients like Jim (*patient's name has been changed for privacy*). In an effort to juggle finances and just meet basic economic needs, Jim put off preventative dental care for years and didn't seek help until there was a problem. Jim works at an hourly wage job and picks up small odds & ends jobs on the side to make up the cost of living expenses for himself and family. Jim neglected his own dental care for many years until one day his excruciating tooth pain began to interfere with his work. Missing work for Jim not only meant a loss of wages for hours he wasn't able to work, but it also put him at risk of losing his job altogether. Jim was able to get treated at ODHC, not only for the tooth that was causing him pain, but also the 5 other teeth that needed work because basic care had been put off for so long. But perhaps the most important role that ODHC played for Jim was to educate him about the importance of preventative care so that he could take this information home to his family for their long-term health.

An example of an amazing prevention program that ODHC provides is called MN SAGE. Under this program, women ages 40-64 can receive annual exams at no cost if they meet income guidelines. To find out more about this and other Open Door Health Center programs, [click here](#).

Your donation to United Way ensures that services like these are available right here in our community.

COMMUNITY IMPACT CORNER

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



The 2010 funding application forms have been distributed to all of United Way's partner agencies this week. This in-depth application is the basis that 65 volunteers will use this spring to determine what agencies will receive what level of funding. The application includes a narrative portion where the agencies are asked to talk about what has been made possible through United Way financial support, but also requires intensive insight into the agencies' budgets, audits and outcomes.

Beginning in April, all agencies that apply for 2010 funding will go through a rigorous review and discussion with the volunteers and United Way staff. In this way, United Way volunteers ensure that funding is spent judiciously and that United Way dollars have the greatest impact possible.

Applying for United Way funding is open to Health & Human Service non-profit organizations providing programming within the Greater Mankato area that has been in existence for at least 2 years and have programs with an operational funding deficit. The application deadline for new partner agencies is March 13, 2009. If you are interested in applying for 2010 United Way funding, please contact me to find out more! 507-345-4551 katieb@mankatounitedway.org.

-Katie Boone

Why join the **LIVE UNITED** movement?

BECAUSE UNITED, WE STAND. UNITED, WE ELEVATE. UNITED, WE CAN CHANGE WHAT WE SEE IN OUR WORLD.