

GIVE.

ADVOCATE.

VOLUNTEER.

### Amy's Story



If you called our United Way office last week, you may have recognized a new voice on the other line. That's because Amy has started working in our office as a temporary Receptionist and Office Help through programming at **MRCI**. At MRCI, Amy will move through a succession of job trials, evaluations and work adjustment training, goal-setting, and work placement. Amy has found that she really enjoys office work, food prep and daycare; that she loves kids and people and has a lot of patience. At the United Way office she loves the office setting, greeting people and talking on the phone.

But Amy's involvement with United Way partner agencies is long! Amy is active at **SMILES** and is particularly proud of her party organization skills. Because she has really good ideas she does all the decorating and plans the food for their holiday parties. Amy is also part of **ARC Southwest's** People First, a self-advocacy group that meets once a week to talk,

In the greater Mankato area, we all have a stake in each other's **SUCCESS**.

### Common Good RSVP -

Volunteer Opportunities for Seniors  
Winston Churchill once said, "You make a living by what you get, you make a Life by what you give." Every day, volunteers of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) give to the community, often in ways unknown to the public.



The primary goal of RSVP is to match volunteers with opportunities in areas such as **Mentoring** (working with youth programs, tutoring, and literacy projects), **Environmental** (conservation, recycling, planting and beautification projects), **Housing** (homeowner skills training, and budgeting help) and **Community Involvement** (blood drives and disaster relief).



As a strong support network for both the volunteer and the partnering agencies, RSVP specifically works to meet the skill levels, schedules and interests of the volunteer with the needs of the agency. In addition, RSVP funding provides volunteers with insurance coverage while working and mileage if it's needed.

Common Good RSVP is thankful to have a strong partnership with the Greater Mankato Area United Way. The United Way supports RSVP's mission to find new and enthusiastic volunteers and build a better community by helping others.

### See for yourself!

Getting out there and seeing first-hand what it is United Way's partner agencies are doing really helps people connect with what the needs are in our community, and how important United Way funding is to ensure that crucial human services are available.

We'd love for you to have the opportunity to experience the work of area non-profits first-hand, which is why we've set up several Agency Tour

develop leadership skills, and identify opportunities for being active participants in the community.

This weekend Amy will be competing in the state Special Olympics where she hopes to add to her collection of medals with her participation in the Volleyball and Track competitions. Amy tells us (with a giggle) that when it comes to Volleyball, "I'm really good".

Amy's involvement and participation in the community (and her winning smile to top it off) is how she **LIVES UNITED** with you.

### All-New Website

On July 1<sup>st</sup> Greater Mankato Area United Way will roll out its

all-new website. Check us out and see for yourself what it means to **LIVE UNITED.**

[www.mankatounitedway.org](http://www.mankatounitedway.org)



dates. An Agency Tour takes about 45 minutes; during that time, you'll visit the agency's facility and hear about what they do and who they serve. We will be meeting at the following agencies for a planned tour. If you would like to visit a different agency, or if none of these dates/times work for you, please call our office at 345-4551 so we can schedule a time that does work.

- Tue, **Aug 12th**, 8-8:45am: Open Door Health Center
- Wed, **Aug 13th**, 12-12:45pm: MRCI
- Mon, **Aug 18th**, 8-8:45am: YMCA
- Thur, **Aug 21st**, 12-12:45pm: Partners for Affordable Housing

Please be sure to call our office to sign up if you are interested in a tour!

### Open Door Health Center

Open Door Health Center is excited to announce that they've added an additional dentist to their full-time staff. During 2008, Open Door has averaged 330 dental visits each month for everything from regular dental cleanings and prevention services to fillings, crowns and dentures. An additional dentist will allow Open Door to serve 400 more people this year who are in need of dental care. This is great news for the health of our community!



Are you interested in having someone come to your community group to talk about basic nutrition and preventative dental care? Throughout the months of June and July, Open Door is excited to have Mai, an MNSU student majoring in Community Health, interning with them and offering free workshops to various community groups. For more information call Mai at Open Door Health Center, (507) 388-2120.

### Save the Date: 2009 Campaign Kickoff Event

Come be a part of the event as we officially launch our 2009 Campaign on **Friday, September 12th from 8-9am** at the Alltel Center. This hour-long event will feature a viewing of our 2009 Campaign Video, the sharing of personal stories of how your donations impact people throughout our greater Mankato community, and the introduction of our exciting 2009 Initiative, *Connecting Kids*. See you there!

**WE ARE ALL PEOPLE. CONNECTED, INTERDEPENDENT, UNITED.**