

FORWARD TO A FRIEND >

United Way
of Mower County

LIVE UNITED



GIVE.

ADVOCATE.

VOLUNTEER.



Thank You

Throughout the course of the year many people volunteer and support the United Way and our initiatives. And every year there are individuals and organizations in our community who go the extra step, not just for us but for all of us.

We would like to acknowledge those who have gone the extra step for us this year. We greatly appreciate all the support and help everyone has shown United Way of Mower County. We are truly blessed to live in a community that supports its organizations and neighbors.

Best Volunteers Ever



No organization is successful without the help of volunteers and no where is that more true than for non-profit organizations. We have the best volunteers!

Each year many people volunteer to be campaign coordinators for their businesses. They are passionate and steadfast voices for United Way. This year we had a number of campaigns that exceeded their goal. Thank you to all who gave their time to raise funds for United Way.

This year we took on a major project with the Community Assessment. The project will be completed this February. Many people throughout the county came together on various committees to make this project happen. Geoff & Diane Baker, Margene Gunderson, Terry Taylor, Scott Aakre, Amy Baskin, Sandy Forstner, Dave Sylte, Celeste Ruble, John Garry, Kristi Stasi, Tammy Snee, Doug Myers,

Seven Who Went The Distance



Day of Caring is one of those days where many kind and generous people give a morning to help others. This year was no exception. We had the largest turnout yet for Day of Caring. Everyone gave their time and talents but we heard of a few that went beyond giving a morning. Thank you for giving beyond measure.

- *Andy Sherman
- *Faith Evangelical Free Church
- *Melissa Shopshire's team from Hormel
- *Tonia Peters team from Iowa and all points in between.
- *Dan and Heidi Hillson's team
- *Knights of Columbus team
- *Larson Allen teams

Recipes & Jam

Mark Bjorlie, Peggy Young, Jim Hurm, Todd Portinga, Shannon Hart, Dan Miller, Paul Kuehneman, Jaynee Sherman, Kelly Lady.

Your work will be used for years to come to improve quality of life for people of Mower County.

In Kind-So Kind

We have the support of many in our area through in kind donations. This year Steve and Maria from The Studio of Fine Photography donated their time and talents to make us all look fabulous in white t-shirts and living large on a billboard. Matt Steiner, Austin Post Bulletin, Games People Play, Hy-Vee, KAUS, Apollo Liquor have also been a big support to us.



And a special thank you to the teens & seniors who volunteer for us with the promise of pizza and soda. We are grateful for all your hard work.

Success by 6 - Driven to Learn



Thank you to all our partners who get kids ready for Kindergarten. Austin Area Preschools, Lyle, LeRoy & Southland Ready 4 Kindergarten, Parenting Resource Center and AMCAT.

On Our Way To The Top

As of December 16th, the United Way of Mower County was at 95% of its goal of \$910,000. You are the reason for that success. We are confident we will reach our goal for 2009. As we reflect on the past year it is our supporters and partners in the community who have made the positive changes possible. We have much work to do in 2010 but we know when we



Dennis Hatton and the folks at the IT Department at Hormel have always been creative in raising funds for United Way. This year they created a cookbook of favorite recipes, over 600 in all. This effort raised over \$10,000 for United Way from this one department.

Dennis went above and beyond and led the effort for cookbook project and it's success. He also sold homemade jam to offset expenses associated with the cookbook so ALL proceeds could go to United Way.



What can we say, you rock Dennis and your jam is really good!

Community Coat Drive

Every year more and more kids are without the basic necessity of a warm winter coat. We received very generous donations both financially and in coats from so many. Thank you to our partners who were drop off locations: Hy-Vee, US Bank, YMCA, LeRoy Center for Arts, & Usem.

Oak Park Mall is always willing to offer a store front for us to sort and distribute coats. Workforce Development staff, The Koehler Family, the YMCA and The Welcome Center have been wonderful support and volunteers for the last few years. We thank you very much for your time and support.

reach out a hand to one, we influence the condition of all. Here's to LIVING UNITED!

Hormel Foundation-A Foundation of Giving

The Hormel Foundation is our community's biggest supporter and that is also true for United Way. Each year they generously support United Way through general funding grant. This year the Hormel Foundation also helped finance the Community Assessment.

The success and growth we have seen in the Preschool Scholarship Program is due in part to the generous donation the Foundation has made to this initiative the last few years. They are committed to seeing Mower County thrive and our children succeed in school.

Thank you Hormel Foundation board members for your continued support of United Way, our initiatives and the future of our community.

A Board Above The Rest

Mandi, Chris and Melissa would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of our board members. We have a great board, people who are dedicated to serving our community with their time and talents. They are supportive, engaged and we appreciate them all. Thank you- Diane Baker, Claude Pulliam, Cathy Hirst, Chad Sayles, Becky Rector, Scott Aakre, Ann Hokanson, Kelly Lady, David Agerter, Jeff Linkous, Kristi Stasi, Trish Wiechmann. We welcome Paul Kuehnemann and Didicus Guzman to our board beginning January 2010.



Get Fit Challenge

It's hard to believe it's been a year already. The Get Fit Challenge is a fun event and each year we meet new people in the community who are passionate about health and are willing to freely share their expertise with the rest of us.

Projects like this take the effort of many. We have great community partners on this initiative: Austin Post Bulletin, Games People Play, South Central Athlete, Rydjour Bike, AMC, KAUS, Hy-Vee, Hormel and the YMCA. Thank you to Dr. Juliet O'Donnell and Jen Haugen for doing so much more than asked to make Get Fit a success and helping us all live a healthier lifestyle.

Get Fit/Be Fit 2010 is right around the corner. To learn more visit our website at www.uwmower.org. Registration ends Jan 7th. Contest begins January 14th.

Wishing You A Wonderful Holiday

From us at United Way of Mower County, we would like to wish all of you a safe and happy holiday.

We look forward to 2010; working with partners, donors and members of the community to bring about lasting change, changing lives for the better.



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