

United Fund

FALL 2009



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2010 Campaign Underway

Increasing Needs Create Challenges

United Fund leaders, volunteers, supporters and funded agencies kicked off the 2010 community campaign with a week of activity culminating in a celebration breakfast at the Norwalk Eagles Club on September 18.

Reaching our 2010 goal of \$330,000 amidst a tough economy will be challenging. But at United Fund we believe in neighbors helping neighbors, and with your help we've been doing so since 1877. The annual campaign is the method we use to fulfill our mission of supporting the needs of our community and its families.

We can't look back at the economic crisis as a reason not to get involved. If anything, it's a call to action. More people in our community are struggling than ever before. Local programs are being stretched to the limits trying to meet the increased need. Every dollar matters.

The Census Bureau recently reported that the nation's poverty rate rose to 13.2% in 2008, the highest level since 1997 and a significant increase from 12.5% in 2007. In Huron County, the unemployment rate rose 18.3% in January, 2009. Although recently down to 13.9%, over 12% of county residents are currently receiving food stamps. 17% are on Medicaid.

In the last 6 months, calls to the United Fund office for assistance have increased by nearly 500% as compared to the same period last year. Funded agency programs also report dramatic increases in need. The Norwalk Salvation Army has seen traffic at their food pantry double, and is serving up to 85 meals a day in their soup kitchen.

These numbers are more than just statistics - they're our families, friends and neighbors who need help. They're why we establish an annual goal that reflects our community's needs.

Giving to United Fund is the best way to help the most people right here in our community. That's our real goal, this and every year.

It's Not Too Late!

Want to help thousands in your community and have fun too? There's still time to join us and start a workplace United Fund campaign!

In 2008, over 90% of all dollars raised for the United Fund came from workplace donations. Workplace campaigns are proven to boost morale and create a sense of community and commitment among staff, all while raising funds for important local programs. To find out about starting a workplace campaign, contact Linda Bersche at 419-668-0269.

Days of Caring

Folks of all ages, backgrounds and abilities have been donating their time and talents in an effort to help others by participating in a United Fund Day of Caring. Recently, local volunteers rolled up their sleeves to create positive change in our community by completing several different projects.

Veteran's Park



It was a busy day for the Gyrus ACMI management "Visionary Volunteers" as they worked to beautify Norwalk's Veteran's Park.

The group was able to dodge the rain and spend several hours weeding, cleaning out, edging and mulching beds.

Norwalk Shelter



Volunteers from United Fund, All Seasons Climate Control and Premiere Construction spent time sprucing up the grounds of Huron County's only temporary emergency shelter.

Rubberized mulch was added to the playground, and the porch and deck were also sealed.

Home Improvement



A Norwalk home was treated to a facelift courtesy of the ACTION Team, a dedicated group of volunteers from Answering The Call Together (ACT).

The old mud room was torn down and the group completely rebuilt a new, improved structure.

Boy Scouts Lend a Hand

When it comes to caring, local boy scout Troop 208 sets a great example for others to follow.

The group spent time this summer at Veteran's Memorial Lake Park picking up trash, cleaning up and mulching flower beds.

Assistant Cubmaster Chris Neal chose the project as a day of service for the boys to thank the community for funds they received through United Fund's Scout Scholarship Program.

Thanks to Cubmaster Dave Hedrick, Chris, and all the boys for a job well done!

PolyOne Yard Sale Benefits United Fund

You can't have a healthy business in an unhealthy community. So one local manufacturer found a creative way to give back.

PolyOne recently held a yard sale featuring items donated by company employees to kick off their 2010 United Fund workplace campaign.

Coordinated by Penny Braker, the multi-day sale included everything from a washer and dryer to toys, books and household items. The final tally exceeded \$700 and was generously donated to United Fund.

Thank you PolyOne for making a difference right here at home!

Making a Difference

If you've ever wondered if your pledge matters, take a few moments and consider the positive impact your gifts have had on the lives of these individuals and families...



Cancer Services

“We’ve been working with Joe, a client who has throat cancer and is healing from radiation treatment. He comes not only for financial help, but also for a little companionship and someone to talk to.

Joe says he dreads his radiation appointments because the mask he wears to guide his doctors in mapping out where to radiate brings back bad memories from Vietnam. Even so, he says that he's determined to complete the treatment and willing to do what it takes to survive the odds and live his life. Joe reports that he has been though much worse in his lifetime.

We hear a lot, both good and bad, about coping with a cancer diagnosis. But we also hear amazing life stories from people who have been though so much. They are so strong and face whatever challenges life gives them. The funding support that we receive from the United Fund enables us to be there to provide financial help and a listening ear for all the Joe's.”

*-Peg Miller
Executive Director*

Reach Our Youth

A former ROY client was recently diagnosed with a very serious illness. His mother said that after her son was admitted to the hospital in Cleveland, she immediately contacted his former mentor. As is often the case, the mentor had stayed in contact with the boy and his family even after officially resigning as a volunteer. The mentor visited the boy at the hospital that same day. He also insisted that the family accept a financial gift to help with expenses.

The mentor has been a strong moral influence in this young boy's life. Mom reports that he has made a significant positive impact on her son and that the relationship will last a lifetime. The boy has worked hard in school, stayed out of trouble, and has not had any contact with the Juvenile Court system.

*-Kathy Noftz
Executive Director*



Norwalk Area Food Bank

“I’ve been waiting for my unemployment and food stamps to be approved for the last several weeks. Without food banks like yours, I don’t know what I’d do!”

-Norwalk Area Food Bank Client

Volunteers...

Together we can make a world of difference, right here at home.



Meals on Wheels

Winter time is fast approaching and Senior Enrichment Services is looking

for volunteers to assist with the Meals on Wheels program.

You can deliver hot lunches to homebound seniors once a week or once a month. Routes are strictly within the Norwalk City limits and only take about an hour.

For more information, please call 419-668-4265, ext 29.



Ohio Benefit Bank Tax Counselors

Help increase revenue for our community while helping those in need!

Volunteers are needed to assist low-income Huron County residents in preparing their income tax returns at no charge. Tax expertise is not needed, volunteers will be using web-based, easy to navigate question and answer software through the Ohio Benefit Bank. Training will be provided.

For more information contact United Fund at 419-668-0269

Kidney Friendly Linguine with Garlic & Shrimp

2 ½ quarts water
½ pound shrimp, peeled & cleaned
2 T olive oil
2 cloves garlic, whole

¾ pound linguine, uncooked
1 cup flat-leaf parsley
1 T lemon juice
black pepper to taste

1. Boil water in large pot. Add pasta and cook for 10 minutes or until tender.
2. While pasta is cooking separate garlic cloves, leaving skin on. Heat cloves in frying pan over medium heat, stirring frequently. Garlic is ready when it darkens and becomes soft. Remove garlic from pan and peel off skin.
3. Heat olive oil in the frying pan and return peeled garlic to pan. Cook garlic until golden.
4. Add parsley and shrimp and cook 1 to 2 minutes, until shrimp turns pink.
5. Drain pasta and reserve 1 cup of liquid. Add pasta to pan with shrimp and garlic. Mix all ingredients together and add reserved cup of liquid.
6. Add lemon juice, black pepper, mix and serve.

**From the Kidney Foundation of Ohio, a United Fund supported agency providing a broad program of assistance to persons with kidney disease and their families.*