

The Allocations Process: What it is, how it works, what it means

GMAUW's mission is to unite the community to secure and invest resources.

A key part of this mission is fulfilled through the Allocations Process. Here's a quick overview of what the Allocations Process is, how it works, who's involved, and what it means.

The Allocations Process: What it is

The Allocations Process determines the distribution ("allocation") of United Way funds. It is a rigorous and comprehensive process which enables United Way to analyze where funding will have the greatest impact and distribute the funds accordingly. This annual review happens every spring and is going on right now to determine funding for 2011.

In short, this process means that United Way is serious about how it invests one of its key resources: your dollars.

The concept is simple: take the people who are doing the work day after day, and let them tell their story. Our goal is to find out what needs they see in our community, who they are serving, how they spend the money, and what impact they are having.

The Allocations Process: How it works

Ensure accountability & collaboration: Every spring, local non-profit agencies submit applications to United Way to request funding for their programs. The application includes everything from detailed budgets, to how many clients they serve, to assessments of the impact the program has had and will have in our community, to details about the demographics of the people they serve.

Bring people together: Each year 60 United Way volunteers will break into teams that will undergo an intense training, and then review the applications, interview the non-profit agencies in person (when possible, on location), and finally, debate the best allocation of United Way funds. These teams of volunteers will make a recommendation to the United Way Board of Directors on how United Way funds should be distributed.

This spring, Greater Mankato Area United Way volunteers will spend over 600 hours reviewing funding applications for 58 programs, and will make tough funding recommendations.

The Allocations Process: Who's involved

Connect people & organizations to resources: This year, 36 local non-profits submitted funding requests to our United Way; from American Red Cross to the YWCA, Lutheran Social Service to Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare. These non-profits work hard every day in our community, from providing basic needs & emergency services, supporting individuals and families, nurturing our children & youth,

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What does giving to United Way have to do with Living United? It's simple, but it's important. By giving to United Way, your donation means that you ..

..are there in someone's greatest time of need..



..and show compassion

..enhance lives..



..and provide opportunities

..nurture our youth..



..and help them belong.

Get involved

enhancing the lives of people with disabilities, or promoting health & wellness. These non-profits directly touch the lives of so many members of our community, making our community a better place to live.

**Create awareness:** On the other side of the review table, a diverse group of community leaders, strategic partners, stakeholders and community members make up the teams of volunteers that review the funding applications. It's tough work because the needs are all so compelling, but with limited resources not all funding requests can be met.

One volunteer expressed what it's meant to her to get involved: *"Serving on the allocations committee has been an invaluable resource for me to better understand my community and has opened my eyes to the real need and importance of programs and services that local organizations provide."* -Jessie Beyer

**Funding requests to our United Way are up by nearly \$200,000 for 2011. That's a 7% increase over 2010.**

### The Allocations Process: What it means

**Secure resources:** When United Way kicks off its annual campaign this fall for 2011, we can communicate to you exactly what programs will receive United Way funding, and why it's so important that programs like these are available in Greater Mankato area. Our campaign goal is to raise funds to meet the needs of our partner programs.

**Incubate initiatives:** The allocation review process goes beyond a review of numbers, results and data; it provides an avenue where resounding messages of gaps and needs in the community can be heard. These reviews have often planted the seeds for new programs to get started as United Way **initiatives** because as the community's needs become apparent, United Way is able to generate awareness and convene the necessary players and resources to address the issue.

If you're interested in getting involved in the allocations process next year, contact Katie at United Way: [katieb@mankatounitedway.org](mailto:katieb@mankatounitedway.org).

### Find your thing

If you'd like to get more involved in the community by volunteering, but just don't know what your "thing" is, check out our [Volunteer Solutions](#) database. Here are some examples of the opportunities you'll find; are any of these your "thing"?

Put your tech skills to good use by helping Open Door with website updates

Try your hand as a community concierge at the Visitor's Center

Share your sports knowledge with the next generation as a MAYBA coach

These and many more opportunities are posted on Volunteer Solutions, and new postings are constantly being added so check it out.

### 2010 Funding by Focus Area

What types of programs does United Way fund? This pie chart shows the distribution of 2010 Allocations, broken out by focus area. For a larger view or more information, click on the chart below, or visit our website at [www.mankatounitedway.org](http://www.mankatounitedway.org), go to ADVOCATE and click on WHAT WE DO.

