

MSU students show what it means to Live United

For the past year, United Way has worked closely with Professor Brenda Flannery's College of Business students at Minnesota State University, Mankato. The goals of the service learning projects were to go beyond typical book work to give students real-life experiences and to teach them how to manage and work in a group. But the collaboration with United Way also taught them much more than that, such as the importance of getting involved in the community and the vital connection between businesses, the community, and non-profits.

Student projects ranged from organizing Day of Action volunteer projects, to filming an eStory and Flash Mob, to building general awareness on campus of United Way and its partner programs. We sincerely thank Dr. Flannery and her students for the partnership and all the work (& sweat equity) the students invested. This eNews highlights some of these projects.



United Way staff met with MSU students at the start of the semester to talk about United Way and project ideas

Developing an eStory

To create more awareness around a specific United Way partner program, "Team K" developed, filmed and created an eStory that features a United Way funded agency: LEEP. This 90-second film documents their visits to LEEP activities, the extraordinary people they met, and what LEEP provides to members of the greater Mankato community. [Click here](#) to see their creation. Didn't they do an awesome job?

**"A group of people create a community.
It doesn't just appear or pre-exist."**

As part of the service-learning projects, students took on typical roles of United Way Campaigners, got involved in the community with United Way partners to promote volunteerism and helped build awareness about United Way on campus. What did the students get out of this experience? Here is what one student said:

"Through the United Way project I have come to realize how each person in the community plays an important role. It doesn't matter if you are 14 years old or 65; the thing to remember is that we create the environment in which in we live. A group of people create a community, it doesn't just appear or pre-exist. I think people forget what makes a community function. I have come to realize that there is a lot involved in making community safe and sustainable."

To read what other students had to say, [click here](#).



MSU students volunteer for the Backpack Program this spring

Facebook & more

To read more about the students' projects and see in-depth news and press articles highlighting the student's efforts, you can go to our [Facebook](#) page and scroll through our posts. While you're there, become a Fan and receive updates through Facebook throughout the year.



MSU students volunteer with United Way partner Partners for Affordable Housing, as part of this spring's Day of Action

Flash Mob

Ever hear of one of these? United Ways across the country staged "Flash Mobs": a group of people enter a public place and shed their outermost layer to expose the common element: their Live United t-shirts. The group stands frozen for several minutes while passers-by go by, and then quietly re-dresses and exits.

The Flash Mob's purpose is to generate curiosity and get people asking questions to find out more about what this group of people were doing there and who they are.

[Click here](#) to watch the MSU students' flash mob video, filmed in the CSU.



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**Thanks to these students and for all members of our community
who continue to choose to
Give, Advocate, Volunteer and LIVE UNITED.**
