

How United Way IMPACTS: Convening Our Community

Greater Mankato Area United Way has a unique role in **CONVENING** our community. We bring together diverse groups of community members and leaders to bring awareness to local issues.

At United Way, one of our responsibilities is to ensure that we understand and bring awareness to the ever-changing issues facing our community

Convening **WOMEN WITH HEART** in our community

Last week, United Way brought together over 200 local women for our first annual Women with Heart Luncheon.



The event targeted women who don't get to hear United Way's message through a rally at their employer because they aren't in the typical workplace; they are stay-at-home moms, or are self-employed, or are other business professionals who otherwise don't have access to a company campaign. United Way felt it was extremely important to reach out to these women to talk about issues facing our community; to talk about United Way's role in the community, and to focus on the issue of hunger.

Why talk about hunger here in greater Mankato? Because 25% of Mankato residents live at or below federal poverty guidelines, and 1 in 3 children in our local schools are receiving Free & Reduced Lunch. Many women attending last week's event said they weren't aware that hunger was a local problem, or about the impact that United Way-funded programs have on the individuals in need of help.

Local kindergarten teacher Tina Rettman shared first-hand the difference she saw in several of her students who participated in the Backpack Food Program this spring. Salvation Army staff member Elaine Schoeneberger talked about the MOMs food truck program, and what it means to the kids who count on those meals throughout the summer.

These and other United Way funded programs make a difference in our community, not just in the lives of the people in need of the services, but in our community as a whole and the quality of life we all enjoy.

Upcoming Agency Tour:

Tue. Aug 31: Life-Work Planning Center

Agency tours are a great opportunity for you to get out to United Way partner agencies to learn more about their impact in the Greater Mankato area. Tours take place from **12pm-1pm**, so that over your lunch hour you can see your gift in action first-hand.

[Click here](#) to read more about what Life-Work Planning Center does for our community, and one woman's personal story.

[Click here](#) to RSVP for the Tour or for more info.

Lunch will be provided thanks to sponsors Subway and Pepsi

Heart Club Book ONLINE

Greater Mankato Area United Way's Heart Club donors are at the heart of our campaign. [Click here](#) to view the newly published 2010 Heart Club book online.

Hunger from a child's perspective

What can hunger mean to a kid? [Listen in for a minute](#) to hunger from a kid's perspective.



We then work to develop flexible, unique and innovative strategies to solve the issues of today and prevent them from occurring in the future

Convening the First Steps Collaborative

Greater Mankato Area United Way is building a collaboration, called **the First Steps Collaborative**, with over 17 regional community partners to help us strengthen, restructure, redesign and standardize a regional home visiting system.

The collaborative builds off of our 2010 Initiative: First Steps, continuing to work at ensuring that not only are parents supported and empowered to be good parents, that children are developing on-track and ready for school, but also that they will be raised in an affordable, healthy, stable and nurturing home. Our goal is to ensure that home visiting and early childhood community services in our region have a centralized referral process. It will also make consistent home visiting outcomes possible region-wide for families, no matter which home visiting program is serving them or where the referral came from.

United Way amplified its regional system-wide efforts when 2 grant opportunities came about through the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation and the Blue Cross Blue Shield of MN Foundation.

United Way continues to work to bring stake-holders, service providers, people and resources together to improve lives in our community.



Volunteer Opportunities

Looking to volunteer but don't know where to start? [Click here](#) to search our online database to see what's out there and get connected to what you're passionate about!

Open House at Door Health Center

In celebration and recognition of National Health Center Week, ODHC is hosting two Open Houses from 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM on Monday, August 9 and on Thursday, August 12. The public is invited to join staff and Board members for a short presentation about ODHC as well as a tour of our facility.

For more information about Open Door Health Center or the Open House events, please call (507) 388-2120 or visit www.odhc.org.

Give. Advocate. Volunteer. LIVE UNITED.



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