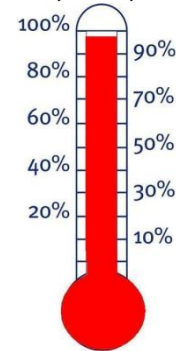


United Way 2011 Campaign Update

Today, at 95% of our \$1,860,000 goal and with the last rallies wrapping up around the community, we are on track to meet the challenging goal set by our community last fall! It will take every last dollar to ensure the successful completion of this campaign, but with your support, United Way and its 36 partner agencies and 58 partner programs will continue to do what it takes to make the Greater Mankato Area a great place to live and work! [Click here](#) to see a list of our 2011 Partner Agencies, and to read more about them!



**2011 Campaign Goal:
\$1,860,000**



**Amount Raised:
\$1,760,649
Percent of Goal: 95%**

Convene. Connect. Secure.
It's what we're doing everyday in Greater Mankato.

In This Issue:

- **Partner Spotlight - Lincoln Logs Learning Ctr**
- **Rally Spotlight - Johnson Outdoors**
- **Corporate Gift Spotlight**
- **Your Gift in Action - Connecting Families to Resources**
- **Save the Date - Volunteer Thank You Event**

**Reach out a hand to one
and influence the condition of all.**

Partner Spotlight: ABE Lincoln Logs Learning Center

Adult Basic Education's (ABE) Lincoln Logs Learning Center provides a safe, stimulating, nurturing environment for the children of refugee, teen and other at-risk parents. While parents are at school working towards their H.S. diploma or increasing their English proficiency, their children are learning the skills they need to get them ready for kindergarten. And, they're having fun!

After spending the first several years of his life in a refugee camp, often with no food or water available, and living conditions making the idea of schooling unfathomable, one boy came to Lincoln Logs while his mother attended English classes. Now 4 years old, he has gone from speaking no English to speaking full sentences, spelling and identifying the letters in his first name, knowing his colors, and counting to 10. He loves books, doing art projects and interacting with other children. After the heartbreak and terror his mother experienced before

Corporate Gift Spotlight
Thank you to these businesses who have pledged their support since our last eNews. [Click here](#) to see a list of all corporate pledges received to date.

- All American Towing Comp
- BENCO Electric
- Best Buy
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of MN
- Brown & Brown Insurance
- Dehen Chiropractic
- DM Stamps & Specialties
- Exclusively Diamonds
- Kato Glass, Inc.
- Kuch Chiropractic
- Lagers of Mankato, Inc.
- Liberty Mutual
- Lloyd Lumber Co.
- McGraw-Hill Publishing
- Minnesota Valley Pet Hospital
- MTU Onsite Energy
- North Mankato Family Dentistry
- Northern Star Bank
- River Bend Business Products
- State Farm Companies
- Thom Family Foundation
- United Health Group

coming to Mankato, she is now thrilled that her dream of one day taking her children to a better place where they would be safe and could thrive, is now a reality. She loves watching her children learn and grow. Without Lincoln Logs, it would not be possible for her to attend English classes and her children would not be getting the early learning they need to be ready for kindergarten. To read more about this family's story and Lincoln Logs, [click here](#).

Thanks to your support of United Way, last year Lincoln Logs was able to provide:

- over 42,500 hours of early childhood instruction
- 61 children of teen, refugee, and other at-risk families with early childhood learning classes, and
- 8,900 hours of parent education to at-risk families

What difference can your gift make? An annual gift of \$520, or \$10/week, can provide an at-risk child with 182 hours of early childhood learning, ensuring that child has a better chance for a successful future!

Give. Advocate. Volunteer.
Be a part of the change.

Rally Spotlight: Johnson Outdoors

Johnson Outdoors employees demonstrated the spirit of giving with awesome campaign results! Employee participation (the # of employees giving) increased a whopping 30%, and employee giving dollars also increased by 30% to \$15,643. A significant increase to Johnson Outdoors' corporate gift resulted in all-around awesome results for this local company.

ECL Ann FitzHenry described the fun atmosphere Johnson Outdoors provided for employees during their UW rally, held at their quarterly meeting. Along with showing the United Way video, employees who turned in their pledge card that day were entered in a drawing, then employee names were randomly selected to participate on-stage in a localized game of Plinko (see their special board in the pic's background!). Because their rally was held close to Halloween, everyone got in the spirit, including the company's regular game show hosts, here clad as Vanna Fright and Dickenstein!



Johnson Outdoors' creepy game show hosts with Plinko mystery prize winner!

Johnson Outdoors Executive Karen James also spoke at the rally, telling employees about her involvement with United Way as a board member, and letting them know that every gift, no matter the size, is appreciated. [Click Here](#) to read a message from Karen.

Way to go, Johnson Outdoors, for your spirit and your generosity!

Valley News Co.
Venture Comm, LLC
Web Construction, Inc.
Wenzel Auto Electric Co.
Winland Electronics
Xcel Energy

Your Gift in Action: Connecting families to resources

Our United Way wants to hear from parents living in the Greater Mankato Area. If you'd like to share your thoughts on how our community can best support you (and others) as parents, [click here](#) for our quick, 6-question survey.

2011 Volunteer Thank You Luncheon

Every year, more than 300 volunteers donate their time  to make our United Way so successful. In recognition and thanks to you, our **shining stars**, please join us **Friday, February 11th from 12-1** for a cozy soup & salad luncheon. [RSVP here](#)



Join Our Facebook Page & become a Fan!