

Your United Way Gift in Action: May 2011

We want to *show you* how your gift to United Way is at work in so many ways, right here in the greater Mankato area, every day.

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CONNECT.

Agency Spotlight: Connecting Kids

How does your pledge to United Way make a difference? One way is through the Connecting Kids program. Because of United Way funding, each year more than **450 local kids receive scholarship assistance** to enable them to participate in positive youth development opportunities, from sports to camps to theater & arts. Most of these kids wouldn't otherwise have the chance to get involved, either because the fees would be prohibitive, or because their families didn't know what was available.

Al Roehm, Connecting Kids Coordinator, is known as the person about town who will get kids connected to what they are passionate about. Al's heart and his commitment to making a difference in our community mean that he's at work every day, making your United Way dollars stretch as far as possible, and being the bridge between families and what are sometimes life-changing opportunities for their children.

United Way is passionate about providing opportunities to get our community's youth connected to a positive experience, whether it be through Connecting Kids or one of our other youth-focused partner programs. United Way president, Laura Bowman, says "United Way partners with local schools and organizations to meet the needs of the youth in our area by getting them involved in opportunities through Connecting Kids scholarships. This innovative approach to ensuring kids are connecting to their interests removes the financial barriers to participating in positive activities and ensures they have positive role models in their lives."

CONVENE.

Community Issues Forum: *Our Community's Youth*

You're invited!



DATE: Friday, June 17, 2011

TIME: Lunch begins at 11:45; Program from Noon - 1

LOCATION: SCC's Heritage Hall

Please [RSVP here](#) by June 13th.

[Click here](#) for more info.

This event is sponsored by YCC.

Aging in our Community

If you missed our Community Issues Forum on Aging last month, you can still read about what was covered and access contact information, by downloading the Power Point presentation [here](#), or go to our [Facebook](#) page to view pictures from the Forum.



To hear more about Connecting Kids and other awesome youth programs in our community, come to our Community Issues Forum on June 17th (see side panel). Or, to browse through an interactive list of all current United Way funded partners, [click here](#) and read examples of the impact your United Way pledge has every day in our community.

Where does the money go? The Allocations Process

Every year, our United Way provides significant funding to more than 30 non-profit agencies and over 50 partner programs. These programs directly impact more than 1 in 3 people in the greater Mankato area. Each year, local non-profits applying for United Way funding go through a rigorous application and review process, and volunteers will invest over 600 hours determining how your United Way dollars will be distributed.

So where does the money go? To read more about the Allocations Process and how United Way decides where to invest the money, [click here](#).



United Way volunteers meet with partner applicants during the Allocations Review Process

Give. Advocate. Volunteer.
LIVE UNITED.

SECURE.

U.S. Bank earns United Way Worldwide's Top Honor

Last week, United Way Worldwide honored U.S. Bank with the 2011 Spirit of America® Award to recognize the company and its employees' commitment to improving the financial stability of individuals, families and local communities.

[Click here](#) to read more about U.S. Bank's local involvement.

Agency Tours & Volunteer Experiences



Carlson Craft employees volunteered at Salvation Army's Noon Feeding Program

Volunteers at our first Volunteer Experiences this year said they had a great experience. Check out more pictures on our [Facebook](#) page.

Stay tuned as we offer small group volunteer experiences and Agency Tours throughout the summer, but if you'd like to go online now and search through other volunteer opportunities, [click here](#), or go to our website and click on Volunteer Solutions.