

**United Way Campaign Update - October 14, 2011**

**Your gift to United Way provides ...**  
*support to people when they need it.*

During the fall campaign, our eNewsletter will keep you updated on the progress of the campaign. But we also want to make sure to remind you how your pledge to United Way in the fall is at work in the community all year long.

Tina\* is a young mom. At 16 with a baby on the way, she faced what she thought was her only option: to drop out of school. Then she found out about TAPP; a local program where she could continue to finish her high school degree while her son received quality child care.



Without this support, and the ability to follow through on her own education, Tina's future would have looked much different. And without access to quality, on-site early childhood learning, many children of at-risk families wouldn't have the opportunity to build the skills they need to prepare them for kindergarten.

Flip over to read Tina's story and how your support of United Way today builds a better future for our community.

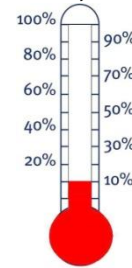
**2012 Rally Spotlights**

Workplace rallies are going on all around our community to bring the message of United Way's work to you. You can go to our website and click on the campaign thermometer, then 2012 Campaign Updates to check out more!

- Employees at Snell Motors (shown here) listened to the YMCA's John Kind talk about the importance of United Way funding
- Schwickerts employee giving **increased 10%** over last year! Awesome!
- Nortech Systems management team will be washing employee cars to raise money for United Way and have fun doing it!



**Goal: \$1,930,000**



**Today: \$336,025**  
**18% of Goal!**

**How We're Helping**

Together with your support, we are improving lives, strengthening our community, and creating hope. Find out how your support of United Way does all this by clicking on the red box on our website, and "How We're Helping"

**Corporate Spotlight**

Thank you to these businesses for their generous corporate Heart Club pledge since our last eNews. Visit our website and click on campaign thermometer to see a list of all 2012 corporate pledges.

- Abdo, Eick & Meyers
- Andring, Collins, & Norman
- McClure Insurance Agency
- Pioneer Bank
- Schwickert's of Mankato
- United Prairie Bank
- Valley Bank



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# SUPPORT WHEN YOU NEED IT

**Agency:** TAPP (Teenage Parenting Program) and ABE (Adult Basic Education)

**Programs:** Lincoln Logs Learning Center

**Service:** Provides a safe, stimulating, nurturing environment for the children of teen, refugee and other at-risk parents, as well as early childhood instruction and parent education

**Need:** Without access to quality, on-site early childhood learning, many of these children of at-risk families wouldn't have the opportunity to build the skills they need to prepare them for kindergarten

**Impact:** Last year, Lincoln Logs provided over 42,500 hours of early childhood instruction to 61 children of teen, refugee, and other at-risk families, as well as over 8,900 hours of parent education to these families. As a result, the parents of these families are on the path to self-sufficiency and their children are gaining the skills they need to help prepare them for kindergarten and life ahead.

*This is one girl's personal story about how her life has been given new opportunities because of the TAPP program and funding from United Way.*

At the time I am writing this, I am 17 years old and have an 8 month old son at Lincoln Logs Learning Center. We both are so lucky to have a scholarship for child care. I found out I was pregnant at 16. I couldn't do volleyball anymore, be in drama, or my passion, band. I couldn't go to my old high school anymore, and my plan was to just drop out. That's what my family told me I would probably do anyway because they said I couldn't handle it all; they pretty much saw me as giving up.

Then I heard about Central High School and how they have the TAPP program and on-site child care. I was so happy because now I could still graduate and do the things I wanted to do. So I switched over to Central; everyone was amazingly nice and understanding of my life. The day I had my son was the best day of my life; he was perfectly healthy and everything. Over the summer I couldn't wait to start school, and have my son only 2 floors away. The first day I dropped him off the teachers were so nice and sweet. They let me know exactly what was going on, they gave me advice, and they respected the wishes I had for my son. Today, my son is happy as can be. He loves his teachers and his classmates. Right now I am a Junior, but have the credits of a Senior. I am currently working and looking towards college classes. The TAPP program has allowed me to not only show my family I didn't give up, but that I can achieve much more; without it I would probably be sitting home right now wishing things could be different.

Carolyn (TAPP Program Director) has helped me with so much; she helped me apply for child care and a child care scholarship; she even helped me get back into band at my old school, which makes my life even better. She is an amazing woman and what United Way does is phenomenal. I feel so honored to say thank you for everything you do and for giving me a chance to show my son that even though I had him so young, I can still fulfill my dreams and make him proud



Your support of United Way makes it possible for at-risk families to receive child care scholarships, so they can continue to further their education and hopes for their future, while their child receives quality care and vital early childhood education.