



On our way to our  
2009 Campaign Goal  
of \$1,876,151:

92.9% to goal

\$1,743,457

## PERSONAL MESSAGE

A message from **Cindy Amoroso**,  
GMAUW Board Chair

Our community's generosity to the United Way is a bright spot in the all-encompassing news about the economy. In these difficult times, local companies and residents are making a commitment and the United Way Board is so thankful that people are willing and able to give.

We will steward your contributions with integrity and leverage our resources to do the most good for the people in our area. In addition, we continue to have innumerable volunteers associated with United Way.



As an administrator for the Mankato Area Public Schools, I know first hand how the economy is affecting our youth on a day-to-day basis. The United Way's focus on serving our community's children takes on even more meaning in difficult times and we are excited to be moving forward with many youth initiatives, including Ready for K!, Success by Six, First Steps, youth development and sports programming, and day care and preschool opportunities.

Thank you to all involved with United Way's efforts. We greatly appreciate your gifts of treasure, time, and talent.

## CAMPAIGN BEST PRACTICES

### Dotson Company's *IMPACT in our community*

An outstanding 82% of Dotson Company employees pledged to GMAUW this year, up from an impressive 74% last year. Employees also increased their total pledge amount to \$32,918, an increase of 13%, and significantly increased the number of #1 Club givers to 43 members! Add that to the 17 Heart Club members at Dotson Company and you get an idea of the spirit of philanthropy at this organization.

## Give.

Since our last eNewsletter, the following businesses dug deep with new 2009 Corporate Heart Club pledges:

*Aetna Foundation, Inc  
Border States Electric  
Northern Star Bank*

## Advocate.

### Advancing the Common Good: Creating Opportunities for a Better Life for All

Everyone deserves opportunities to have a good life: a quality **education** that leads to a stable job, enough **income** to be self-sufficient and financially independent, and good **health**. That's why United Way's work is focused on these three building blocks for a good life.

## Volunteer.

Every year, more than 400 volunteers make our United Way great. Let us honor you for all you do at our **2009 Thank You Event & Luncheon**.

**When:** Friday, Feb 20  
from 11:30-1pm

**What:** A yummy soup & salad buffet to warm you up!

**Where:** South Central College  
Heritage Hall

**Who:** All United Way volunteers

**How:** [RSVP](#) by Feb 13

## LIVE UNITED

It's a CREDO. A MISSION. A GOAL. A CONSTANT REMINDER that when we reach out a hand to one we influence the condition of all.

But Dotson Company went beyond just stellar campaign results to show their commitment to our community. Just before Thanksgiving last year, the company was planning to shut off all electrical power to do preventive maintenance, but they didn't want



employees to be without a day's income, so they came up with an innovative -and caring!- solution: if the employees were willing to do volunteer work that day, then the company would pay them to do it. So, on November 26 more than 50 Dotson employees went out into our community and lent a hand to more than 8 non-profit organizations. Some examples of the much-needed work they did was heavy cleaning, putting up shelving, building, organizing, bell ringing, set-up and packing. Some of the employees brought their children along, to instill in the next generation the importance and the fulfillment that comes from lending a hand. Dotson Company employee Harley Goff was in charge of lining up the volunteers and he said that he got so many responses from the organizations that they were "tickled" and so appreciative of the work that Dotson Company employees did that day.



What a blessing it is to have an organization like Dotson Company and its employees in our midst. Thanks for all you do, Dotson Company!

## AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

### Bethlehem Child Care Center

It's something that every parent can relate to: wanting a better life for your children, and wanting to be able to provide for them. When times get tough financially, a parent's concerns are multiplied. One local woman shared her story with us this week, and her appreciation that because of United Way funding, her load has been lightened.

Sarah (client's name has been changed) is a small business owner who is trying to make ends meet. To keep overhead to a minimum she doesn't have any employees, but that also means that she works around the clock to try to keep her business afloat. Sarah says that everything she earns gets invested back into the business trying to make it succeed. That's why she is so grateful for the scholarship she is getting through United Way for her two small children to attend Bethlehem Child Care Center. She says that the scholarship is helping her to move forward and try to make a better life for her family. Sarah swells about the quality of child care that her children are receiving at Bethlehem. She can't say enough about the nurturing environment they are in and how good she feels that her children are receiving an education.

Your donation to United Way helps people like Sarah to get through tough times, to give children a brighter future, and make our community a better place to live and work.

## COMMUNITY IMPACT CORNER

*Update from Katie Boone, GMAUW's Community Impact Director:*

It's a busy time of year for lots of us, and that's no different with our partner agencies. Here are just a few of the things going on next month with our partners:

It's that time of year again - tax time. To find out if you qualify for FREE tax preparation at the [Summit Center](#), call them at 345-5262. Free tax help is available for seniors and lower-to-middle income tax-payers. Appointments can be made for Feb 5 - April 15.

On March 14 the Special Olympics Area 9 Competition will be held at Mankato East High School. Teams will arrive from all over our Area 9, however **LEEP** has by far the largest team. Go LEEP!

[Life-Work Planning Center](#) invites all past and present LWPC participants to join them for the 2nd Annual Networking Event on February 28 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Attend for inspiring stories, skill-building, and social networking. For more info, call Marlene at LWPC at 345-1577.

