

**Greater Mankato Area United Way  
is excited to announce our  
2009 Campaign Result:**

**\$1,851,123**

With just a few rallies left to take place, United Way is projecting a 2.6% increase over last year's campaign. Thank You to the over 9000 individuals and businesses who dug deep this year to pledge so generously!

We want to share the stories with you of how your United Way dollars are having an impact in our community. Watch for our **Your Gift in Action eNewsletters** throughout 2009. We'll keep you informed of what United Way is doing and how you can continue to LIVE UNITED.

**2009 AWARD WINNERS**

Each year, so many of you do so much to give back to the community and make a difference. At this year's Thank You Luncheon & Event, United Way presented several local businesses and individuals with special recognition awards for their outstanding gifts of treasure, time and talent.

**Business of the Year Award for small businesses:  
Voyager Bank**

Voyager Bank had a remarkable 100% Employee Participation in the 2009 campaign and increased their overall giving by 41% over last year. Along with a corporate gift that increased by 85% and several Voyager Bank staff who volunteer with United Way's campaign, we are so grateful for the generosity of Voyager Bank and its employees!



**Business of the Year Award for medium-size businesses:  
Dotson Company**

Dotson Company held several rallies during all the employee shifts which resulted in an overall 17% increase in giving to United Way and 82% employee participation in the United



**Our Vision.**

People LIVING UNITED to better our community.

**Our Mission.**

Unite the community to secure and invest resources to improve people's lives.

**Strategic Direction.**

**Connect** people and organizations to resources.  
**Secure** resources.  
**Convene** the community.

**Introducing Christi Wilking**

*A message from Christi Wilking, GMAUW's new Resource Development Director*



As the newest member of the Greater Mankato Area United Way team, I am excited to join such a great organization.

My experience with United Way started when I was working at the YMCA through college and my passion for what United Way does has grown ever since. For the past two years I have been involved with United Way as a general business campaign volunteer.

Way campaign. Thank You to Dotson Company for its generous corporate gift which increased by 42% and for encouraging a culture of volunteerism within its employees.

**Business of the Year Award for large businesses:**

**Scheels All Sports**

Scheels continues to be a shining star for United Way.

With a significant number of part time and young employees, Scheels this year had 85% employee participation in the United Way campaign and a whopping 110 #1 Club members. Scheels employees increased their giving by 19% and they continue to support United Way with a generous corporate gift



**Business of the Year Award for large businesses:**  
**Kato Engineering**



Along with a 20% increase in their corporate gift, Kato Engineering also saw their employee giving increase by an unbelievable 33%. Kato Engineering has an outstanding 63 #1 club donors and 30 Heart Club members. Kato Engineering continues to have an impact on its community, thanks to the enormous generosity of both the company and its employees.

**Heart Club Philanthropist Award:**  
**Steve VanRoekel of Ridley, Inc.**

This award goes to an individual who stands out for their impact on leadership, both for their financial giving as well as their ability to motivate others within their company and community to become a leadership giver.

Steve did an amazing job at Ridley this year by incorporating a focus on Heart Club into their employee rally. As a Heart Club member, Steve wrote a letter to his team inviting them to join him in the Heart Club, and then celebrated Heart Club members by treating them to lunch. His attention to the Heart Club paid off as Ridley added 6 new Heart Club donors and had a 25% increase in their campaign. In addition to his role in Ridley's internal campaign, Steve also volunteered as a corporate gifts division chair.



As for my personal life, I grew up near Sioux Falls, SD and came to Mankato to attend MSU. I have been part of the greater Mankato community ever since. My husband and I were recently married in Cancun, Mexico with 25 of our closest family and friends in attendance. We live just south of Mankato with our yellow lab, Bella. I like to stay pretty active - I play both indoor and sand volleyball, take Bella for walks, and in the summer you will find me out on the lake skiing and wakeboarding.

I know the dedication and generosity this community has in wanting to make a difference, and I am eager to meet all of you as we work together to better our community!

**Your Gift in Action**

**Mankato Family YMCA:**

**Financial Assistance Program**  
After suffering a traumatic head injury, Todd was not expected to walk, talk or live a 'normal' life again. Fighting through his injury, Todd has defied all odds, and staying active by exercising and strength training at the YMCA have been crucial in Todd's success.

Unable to work after his injury, Todd was able to afford an adult membership at the YMCA thanks to the financial assistance program, a United Way funded program. As an active member at the Mankato Family YMCA for more than 5 years, he has significantly improved his strength and flexibility, in addition to building lifelong friendships with other members. "The Y has been the best thing for me," Todd said, "I want to encourage others to better themselves too; physically, spiritually, and mentally, by becoming involved in the Y."

**Volunteer of the Year Award:**

**Nancy Hopkins of Valley Bank**

In 2008 Greater Mankato Area United Way was fortunate to have over 400 individuals volunteer their time and talents. This award is given to a volunteer who selflessly and generously gives of his or her time and has established a tradition of commitment to help fulfill the mission of United Way.

Nancy has been a lifelong supporter of United Way and has been an active volunteer in many different capacities, from serving on the Youth Impact Team to being involved in the campaign not only on her company's internal committee, but also as a campaign caller, as last year's Heart Club Chair, and as the Campaign co-Chair three years ago. Nancy is also finishing her term on our Board of Directors this spring. As Nancy retires from Valley Bank this year, we wish her well and thank her for all her contributions to our community!

**The Unsung Hero Award:**

**Al Roehm of the Children's Project**

This award is given to a human service professional who is committed to inspiring hope and creating opportunities for individuals in our



community. It recognizes a person who works behind the scenes each and every day to advance the common good of our community; one child, one individual; one family at a time, and is an example of what it means to Live United.

The first ever Unsung Hero Award is presented to Al Roehm. Al has worked for the Children's Project since 1995 and has been an integral part of more than 1,000 youth & their families' lives. Al's commitment to kids is 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and still he keeps asking "what else can we do for kids?" Al has been a tremendous voice for United Way, speaking at numerous United Way company rallies each year. Thank You, Al, for being an unsung hero to thousands of kids in our community.

Financial assistance is available to those who may not be able to afford the full cost of membership. Membership at the YMCA provides recreation, activity and socialization for all ages, from toddlers to youth, families to adults. To apply for financial assistance, pick up an application at the YMCA or visit their website at [www.mankatoymca.org](http://www.mankatoymca.org), or call them at 507-387-8255.

**LIVE UNITED**

United Way works to advance the common good by focusing on education, income and health. These are the building blocks for a good life: a quality education that leads to a stable job, enough income to support a family through retirement, and good health.