



Community Matters.

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United Way of Linn County Celebrates its 50th Birthday!

It all started as the Lebanon United Fund, an organization formed to fund-raise for local non-profits. United Fund volunteers talked to friends, neighbors, co-workers and local business groups about giving to support agencies like, Red Cross, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Heart and Rheumatism organizations and local youth.

In 1957 the United Fund merged with the United Way, an organization focused on creating change in the community. Becoming a part of the United Way meant that organization would not only fundraise, but work to identify underlying causes of local issues and partner with a broad range of people and organizations to create change.

2007 marks United Way of Linn County's 50th year of mobilizing people to make a lasting change in their community. The organization has grown from a campaign of just over \$93,000 to nearly \$1,000,000 supporting 50 programs at 26 partner agencies!



Greg Roe, Executive Director of United Way says that he is very proud to lead the organization into its 50th year. "The organization has come a long way in 50 years and is more active than ever before" Says Roe. This year United Way hopes to break \$1,000,000 in its campaign and in celebration of it's 50th year, donors will be asked to increase their pledges in increments of 50, whether that be .50 cents a paycheck or \$50 a year.

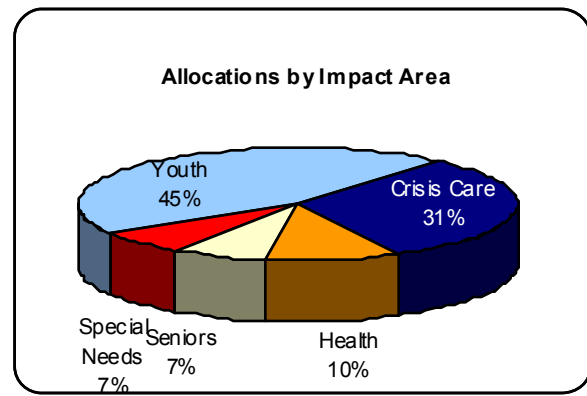
United Way will host a 50th Birthday Party and Campaign Kick-off Saturday, September 22 from 12:00-5:00 PM at Bryant Park. The party will come alive with 50's music and an old fashioned car show. There will be children's activities and a chicken BBQ dinner with a speech from Ceremonial Campaign Chair Senator Frank Morse to get the campaign started right. All of those who are interested in attending should RSVP to the United Way office by September 10th.

Agency Allocations Summary

Over 100 volunteers that comprise United Way's Funds Allocation Committee met in early April to visit with United Way's 26 partner Agencies. The volunteers act as a mini-board of consultants for the partner agencies. Together they examine currently funded programs and make sure that each program is financially stable and providing measurable results to our community.

During each agency visit, volunteers are given an overview of each program and a chance to ask questions. The volunteers then make recommendations to United Way on how the funds should be allocated among partner agencies. They also make suggestions on how partner agencies can increase their effectiveness in the community.

This fine tuned process is what makes United Way run so efficiently as well as confirms that it's programs are making a lasting change in our community. Thank you to everyone who took time to volunteer!



Save a Lot and Help Your Community



Save a Lot, a national edited assortment grocery store, will

partner with United Way to celebrate their grand opening in Albany on August 15th. Save a Lot's limited assortment means that stores carry the most frequently purchased grocery items in the most popular size and variety. Save a Lot's business model allows cost savings to be passed on to the consumer.

Save A Lot's grocery store supports the community primarily through United Way, therefore they are donating \$5 to United Way for every individual who comes to Save A Lot's grand opening. United Way of Linn County encourages you spread the word to friends and family and join in the celebration. For more information about Save A Lot please [click here](#).

United Way Can Help Develop Leaders In Your Company

Each year, United Way recruits Loaned Executives from community-minded organizations. The organization sponsors loaned personnel and/or the hiring of individuals to participate as Loaned Executives to staff our annual fundraising campaign.

This extension of staff allows United Way to multiply resources to support over 200 corporations who run employee campaigns. The additional work force provided by this program minimizes fundraising costs and allows us to provide better service.

Through the Loaned Executive program, your participants receive training and experience to improve their development in the following areas:

Management Skills – including priority and goal setting, time management, resource utilization and campaign volunteer motivation

Selling Skills – researching accounts, preparing and making presentations and developing communication strategies

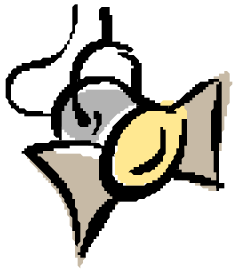
Team Work – how to work effectively as a team member



Community Awareness – increased sensitivity to community needs and greater awareness of human services and the United Way's role in addressing community needs

Networking – interaction with the communities top business and professional leaders.

The success of the annual United Way campaign could not be realized without the dedication of our Loaned Executive team. Consider joining the United Way team, and help us achieve what matters - building a stronger community.



Agency Spotlight Sharing Hands

Sharing Hands started in the early 1980's as a place for mothers to exchange clothing and glean crops from local fields. Growing with the need, it became a non-profit corporation in 1982 and now operates five programs. The Food Bank evolved out of the gleaning program. It distributes about 100 food baskets each month to low income families to alleviate hunger and help ensure that their children have a healthy diet. Parents and Pals became a program of Sharing Hands in 1987. Today it is recognized as one of the finest parent support groups in Linn County. Over 30 pre-school age children attend weekly play groups while parents receive information and support on raising infants to 3 year olds. Both the Food Bank and Parents & Pals rely upon the United Way for a substantial portion of their funding.

The dothing exchange evolved into the Thrift Shop that serves the general public in Central Linn. Every month it re-cycles over 3000 pieces of dothing and offers them for sale to over 300 customers at affordable prices. It is the Central Linn areas only source of reasonably priced re-cyded clothing and miscellaneous household items. Many families consider it to be their primary source of their family's personal needs. It is not only self supporting, but also helps to pay approximately 25% of the operating costs of the Food Bank as well.

The Learning Tree Pre – School was started in the fall of 2004 to meet the needs of families with children preparing to enter kindergarten and ready for curriculum-based activities. Students participate in reading readiness, hands-on-mathematics exploration, science, art and music, as well as addressing social skills and problem solving.

Christmas Greeters distributes over 120 Christmas Dinner baskets to low income families and seniors and gives presents to over 350 children and seniors during the Holiday Season. It depends totally upon local donations and does not receive United Way funding.

Sharing Hands has two part –time staff persons and a dedicated crew of approximately 30 hard – working volunteers who serve over 225 hours per month. Many have been recognized as The South Linn County Volunteer of the Year by RSVP and one recently received the President's Volunteer Service Award from the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation. Sharing Hands has been a Partner Agency of United Way since 1984.

A Day of Caring Turns in to a Life Long Friendship

They met by chance at the (year) Day of Caring when Pete Boucot, of Costco Wholesale, was paired up with Sybil to do some window washing. Pete volunteered for United Way's Day of Caring thinking that he would spend the day cleaning, building or doing yard work for a Linn County resident or organization that needed help. Pete did all of those things and more!

While washing windows for Sybil a friendship was created. Pete chatted with her about her three kids, her husband and her in-laws who bought her a plant every year for her birthday. He also discovered that there were many more projects that Sybil needed completed, but there was no one around that could work on them for her.

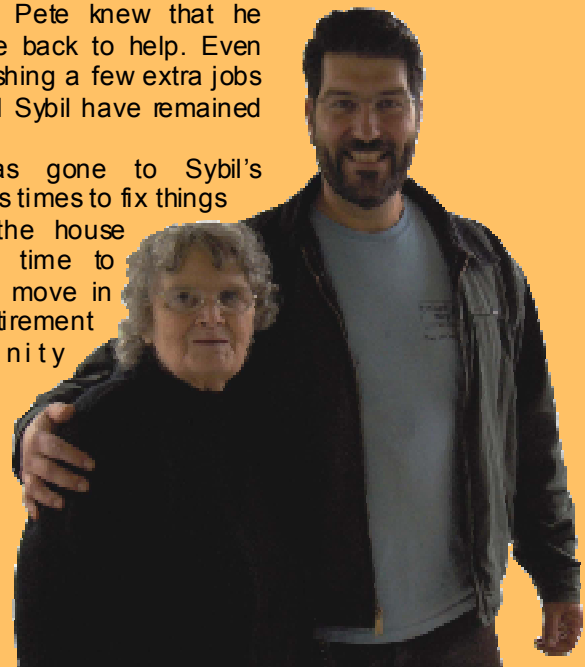
After meeting Sybil and hearing this, Pete knew that he would be back to help. Even after finishing a few extra jobs Pete and Sybil have remained friends.

Pete has gone to Sybil's numerous times to fix things around the house and last time to help her move in to a retirement community

and Sybil calls Pete often to hat and to ask for advice.

The experience has been rewarding for both individuals and just goes to show that how volunteering for an extended period of time rather than just one day can really impact lives and the community.

This year the United Way of Linn County's Day of Caring will be dedicated to doing projects for seniors like Sybil in honor of its 50th Birthday. It will be a time to give back to those who were active back when United Way of Linn County was formed and who have been an integral part in making the organization what it is today. Senior Day will be held Friday, September 14th. If you have a team who is interested in a project, call the United Way Office at 541-926-5432.



Civic Participation. Sharing Hands has been a Partner Agency of United Way since 1984.
