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**MID-VALLEY NEWS**

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## United Way hits \$1 million goal

By Cathy Ingalls  
Albany Democrat-Herald

United Way of Linn County has set an all-time record for pledged donations: \$1 million.

By Thursday, \$1,007,000 had been pledged to the 2007 campaign, said Marilyn Smith, president of the United Way board. The board set a \$1 million goal for the county's 50th anniversary campaign. Funds are shared with 26 agencies.

"This is a remarkable moment and a reminder of how many generous people live and work in Linn County and know how to share," Smith said.

At least 10 businesses have yet to report their contributions, said Greg Roe, United Way's executive director. A total of 162 businesses conducted campaigns this year, with 80 percent of them raising more money than last year, he said.

Shelly Jones, manager of Costco's Albany warehouse, was the campaign chair.

Here is a list of notable business contributions this year: Costco increased its donation from \$30,000 last year to \$70,000 this year; Lowe's gave \$25,000 in its first Linn County campaign; Wah Chang increased its employee campaign by 10 percent to \$160,000; employee groups at Burgerville and Carl's Jr., each raised more than \$1,000; and PepsiCo, gave \$5,000.

In all, 3,541 individuals contributed, including 258 people who gave more than \$500 each.

Volunteers from throughout Linn County will meet later this month to consider agency requests for United Way funds for the next two years. The process includes reviewing a formal application and financial data from each agency; a meeting with agency directors, board members and staff or clients to see the program first-hand; and a recommendation for each program to the United Way Funds Distribution Committee.

About 100 volunteers are needed to take part. Each is expected to spend four to five hours at the task, beginning with a short orientation meeting at 6 p.m., April 24, at Calapooia Middle School. Agency site visits will be scheduled at the volunteers' convenience between April 25 and May 12.

Those who would like to volunteer can sign up online at [www.unitedwayoflinncounty.org](http://www.unitedwayoflinncounty.org) or by calling the United Way office at 926-5432.

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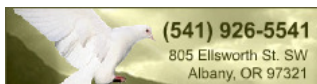
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