

PRESS RELEASE

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**United Way
Of Jackson County**

UNITED WAY COMMUNITY NEEDS CAMPAIGN PASSES HALFWAY MARK

Campaign results total nearly \$1.4MM, 56% of overall goal

November 3, 2006 – United Way of Jackson County announced this week that their Community Needs campaign has passed the half way point, raising nearly \$1.4MM (\$1,378,610) as of Thursday, November 2. The amount announced is approximately 56% of the overall goal of \$2,468,000.

“We’re seeing some very exciting results,” said Kathy Schmaltz, Campaign Co-Chair for United Way of Jackson County. “Our campaign teams are doing a great job. We’ve got a long way to go, but we’re optimistic that we will reach our goal.”

Some highlights from this year’s campaign include:

- The employees of Foote Health System are running their best campaign ever, exceeding their goal by 6% by raising over \$131,000 and still counting.
- MACI associates have done an outstanding job, leading all area manufacturers by contributing over \$123,000, with over 64% of employees participating.
- Employees at area Meijer stores increased their contributions by a whopping 42% over last year, pledging over \$31,000 to improve lives in Jackson County.
- Consumers Energy employees raised 104% of their goal, and will contribute over \$900,000 to help build a stronger community.

The goal of \$2,468,000 is about a \$50,000 or 2% increase over the approximately \$2,416,000 contributed locally during the 2005 campaign. The 2006 goal does not

include grants from federal, state and other sources that were included in previous goals

Funds raised during the 2006 campaign will help support over 33 programs provided by over 20 local program partners. All types of Jackson County residents in need will be served, from expectant mothers to senior citizens. Program partners include well known national names such as the American Red Cross, Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts, and the Salvation Army; as well as local partners like the John George & Jackson Friendly Homes, Lily Missions Center, and the Jackson School of the Arts

For more information on the Community Needs campaign, or to run a United Way campaign in your workplace, please call the United Way of Jackson County at (517) 784-0511.