

PRESS RELEASE

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**United Way
Of Jackson County**

2006 UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN GOAL SET AT \$2,468,000

Only dollars raised in community are included in goal - a 2% increase over 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JACKSON (August 22, 2006) - The United Way of Jackson County Campaign Cabinet recently announced a fundraising goal of \$2,468,000 for the 2006-2007 Community Needs Campaign. The goal does not include grants from federal, state and other sources that were included in previous goals.

“Our campaign volunteers helped set the new goal,” said Campaign Co-Chair Kathy Schmaltz. “They felt that it made more sense to only include those dollars that the community is actually raising. People see the “thermometers” and want to know how they’re doing, not how many dollars we’re bringing in from out of town.”

The goal is approximately a \$50,000 or 2% increase over the approximate \$2,416,000 raised locally during the 2005 campaign. Campaign Co-Chair John Crist will help Schmaltz lead a volunteer team of over 300 community members as they make presentations, gather pledges, and collect the dollars to help Jackson County residents in need.

“We know the grants we bring in are helping the community,” said Crist, “but they are restricted dollars; they can only be used to address specific problems, like juvenile delinquency, or substance abuse. Our volunteers can’t distribute those dollars to our partner programs.”

Funds raised during the 2006 campaign will help support over 30 programs provided by over 20 local program partners (see attached list). They serve all Jackson County residents, from expectant mothers to senior citizens. Program partners include well know 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.

In addition, the campaign serves as a reminder to Jackson County residents that every dollar can make a difference in someone's life. "We want everyone to know that every dollar is important", said Mike McKenna, Director of Fund Development for United Way of Jackson County. "Even if someone can only pledge a dollar a week, those dollars will definitely help someone in need – they might provide emergency food or housing, or transportation to a medical appointment. There are many needs, and every dollar helps".

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.

Attached:

2006 – 2009 United Way of Jackson County - Investment In Community Programs

2006 – 2009 United Way of Jackson County Investment in Community Programs

PROGRAM	AGENCY	PROGRAM SUMMARY
Emergency Services	American Red Cross	Provides short-term disaster relief and assistance in the form of shelter, food, clothing, and other emergency services, and emergency support and communication links between members of the armed forces and their families in Jackson County.
Domestic Violence Program	AWARE, Inc.	Provides emergency shelter, 24 hour crisis intervention, individual and group counseling, and advocacy to victims of DV and their children; Provides community education on DV
Sexual Assault Program	AWARE, Inc.	Strives to eliminate sexual violence through community education, systems change, and comprehensive services for sexual assault survivors, including counseling, emergency shelter, 24-hour crisis intervention and initial medical care
Bigs in School	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Jackson County	In school, one hour per week, one-to-one mentoring for youth referred to BIS who are in need of positive adult role models - referrals are based on behavior problems, social problems, school attendance & tardiness.
Family Care Program	Catholic Charities of Jackson	Provides a broad range of mental health services to adults and families including prevention groups, comprehensive assessments, in-office and in-home treatment, short and long term treatment and education
Kid Care Program	Catholic Charities of Jackson	Includes a broad spectrum of mental health services for youth, including treatment of child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, and Prevention Services
Respite Care	Catholic Charities of Jackson	Provides short-term, low-cost, in-home relief for caregivers of elderly homebound Jackson County residents. This periodic relief allows the caretakers to complete necessary errands and return to their loved ones physically and mentally refreshed. (2006 target: Serve 35 caregivers.)
Retired Senior and Volunteer Program	Catholic Charities of Jackson	Provides a "clearinghouse" through which seniors volunteer to help those in need in Jackson County. (Currently 450 volunteers providing 75,000 volunteer hours per year.)
Veterans Transportation Program	Catholic Charities of Jackson	RSVP volunteers provide free transportation to Veterans needing medical and rehabilitation services, on an "as needed" basis
Community Medication Assistance Plan	Center for Family Health	Provides prescription assistance to Jackson County residents at 150% of poverty level and below, through sample medications, indigent drug program, of CFH purchased medication
OB Advocacy	Center for Family Health, Inc.	Minimize barriers for low-income women to accessing prenatal care & other services that impact birth outcomes, through education and assistance in navigating the health care system
Reach Out and Read	Center for Family Health, Inc.	Promotes early literacy as a routine part of pediatric care through education, free book distribution and reading to children in the lobby.
Child Care Scholarships	Child Care Network	Provides childcare scholarships for low-income parents. Includes help with issues such as parenting, early childhood development and choosing quality care.
Early Truancy Intervention	Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect	A family support program that addresses educational neglect - ETI Case Managers work with referred families to correct absenteeism, provide referrals to appropriate community services, provide ongoing family support and intervention for families referred with chronic head lice
Community Education	Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect	Provides information and education to the public, the community, professionals, parents, and children to raise awareness regarding prevention, recognition and reporting child abuse and neglect.
Community Education-Nurturing Parent Program	Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect	The Nurturing Parent program emphasizes the importance of raising children in a warm, trusting and caring household. Classes are taught by trained facilitators and are separated by age group: parents of preschoolers, 5-12 year olds and parents of teenagers, with a parallel group for the children.

Breakout Drug Education	Family Service & Children's Aid	Educates children about the short and long-term affects of drug use, how to identify and handle peer pressure and how to avoid high risk situations and make healthy choices
Family Counseling	Family Service & Children's Aid	Provides mental/behavioral health counseling on an individual, family and/or group basis on a sliding scale basis for those with limited resources.
Diversion/ Restoration Program	Florence Crittenton Services	Provides services to court and community referred youth to prevent further prosecution and recidivism of at-risk juveniles, promote regular school attendance & improve familial relations
Teen Father & Pregnancy Prevention	Florence Crittenton Services	Support teen fathers through home visits, comprehensive assessment and service plan, case management, crisis assistance and pregnancy prevention/sex education groups.
Food Distribution	Food Bank of South Central Michigan	The Food Bank of South Central Michigan maintains a hunger-relief network of member agencies, including 34 non-profit agencies operating feeding programs in Jackson County.
Youth Development	Girl Scouts - Irish Hills Council	Program provides an accepting & nurturing environment where girls build character and skills for success in the real world
Comprehensive Youth Development	Great Sauk Trail Council, Boy Scouts of America	Educational program for youth to develop good character traits, train in the responsibilities of citizenship, and develop personal fitness
Volunteer Service & Recognition	Habitat for Humanity	Provides low cost housing to low income families through the incorporation of volunteers who provide approximately 3000 volunteer hours per house
Child Care Scholarships	Jackson Child Care Center	A non-profit, fully licensed and accredited child care center which provides a safe, healthy, quality childcare program at affordable prices for low-income families through child care scholarships
Car Seat Rental Program	Jackson County Health Dept	Provides low-cost car seats to Jackson County families, educates parents/caregivers on proper car seat use and installation, and educates the community about car seat safety.
Assisted Living Care for Senior Women	Jackson Friendly Home	Provides affordable assisted living to women over sixty years of age in a friendly, homelike atmosphere that encourages independence. (Capacity: 45 residents.)
After School Art Education	Jackson School of the Arts	Provides accessible art education to low & moderate income children, through on-site classes priced on a sliding fee scale, after school programs at school and community organizations and a week-long residential summer camp
Assisted Living for Senior Gentlemen	John George Home, Inc	Provides a safe, quality, affordable independent living setting for elderly gentlemen. (Capacity: 35 residents.)
Legal Services	Legal Services of South Central Michigan	Legal Services provides legal counsel, advice, and representation in critical civil (non-criminal) legal areas to low-income persons. Specializes in domestic cases, homeless prevention, and obtaining income and medical benefits for disables persons.
After School Education Program	Lily Missions Center	After school program which provides assistance with homework, tutoring in problems subject areas, work in computer lab, development math and reading skills, and supervised recreational activity
Emergency Needs	The Salvation Army (lead)	Assists low-income families in emergency situations by assisting with food, emergency medical needs, rent/mortgage, shut off notices or heating needs for clients who have met with FIA.
Teen Pregnancy Prevention	Jackson County Health Dept (lead)	A strategic plan led by the JCHDS to reduce teen pregnancy by focusing on Community Assessment, Target Population, Risk and Protective Factors, and Best Practices