

# PRESS RELEASE

Jim Brian  
Manager of Marketing and Communications  
United Way of Jackson County  
536 North Jackson Street  
Jackson, MI 49201  
(517) 784-0511 784-2430 (fax) [jbrian@uwjackson.org](mailto:jbrian@uwjackson.org)



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of Jackson County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **UNITED WAY “GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE” CAMPAIGN HITS \$1.6M MARK**

### **Manufacturing, Foote campaigns provide momentum, results**

JACKSON, Michigan, (November 14, 2007). The United Way of Jackson County announced today that the community has raised nearly \$1.6 million dollars (\$1,599,657) so far during the 2007 “Give Where You Live” campaign. The announcement was made at their campaign volunteer breakfast held this morning at the United Way Center, 536 North Jackson.

“These are hard times for many of us in our community,” said Joe Lathrop, Campaign Chair of the United Way of Jackson County and Vice-President of Flagstar Bank. “But it is exactly during times like this that we really need to help each other. The community is responding and opening up with their hearts and wallets to meet these critical needs.”

The results are led by strong performances by several manufacturers, who as a whole are ahead of last year’s pace by nearly 25%. For example, MACSTEEL employees increased their campaign contributions by over 15% from last year, raising over \$54,000 and establishing a record level of giving for their company. “Our employees see the results of our difficult economy every day,” said Bruce Black, Plant Manager at MACSTEEL. “They feel the need and they’ve stepped up big time this year, and we’re really proud of them.”

Michigan Automotive Compressor, Inc. (MACI) also has turned in excellent results, increasing their contributions by over 11% from last year, raising nearly \$91,000. “We

had incredible participation from our associates – over 80% pledged to help the community through United Way and the wonderful programs they support”, said Cheryl Norey, Community Relations Director for MACI. “When you see the impact your contribution can make, and how it can make a difference for your co-workers and neighbors, you just want to do everything you possibly can to help out.”

Foote Health System employees are also on a track to break last year’s giving, having already raised over \$141,000, with more pledges to count. “We’ve exceeded what we did last year and we’re not done yet”, said Nancy Cerqueira, Director of Volunteer Services for Foote. “I think our employees understand the need out there in the community, and they believe it makes sense to ‘Give Where You Live’ – especially this year.”

The United Way “Give Where You Live” campaign supports Jackson County residents through a combination of over 49 different programs and community collaborations. More than 30 local human service organizations partner with the United Way to target six prioritized needs in Jackson County:

- Growing families safe and sound,
- Overcoming hardships and forging pathways to self-sufficiency,
- Fostering health & well-being physically, mentally and emotionally,
- Supporting success in school and preparedness for life,
- Promoting a safer community, and
- Building a coordinated service delivery system.

For further information on United Way programs and services call the Jackson County United Way office at 784-0511, or visit their website, [www.uwjackson.org](http://www.uwjackson.org). Contributions can also be made online at the website by clicking on the “Donate Online Now” button on the United Way of Jackson County homepage.