

PRESS RELEASE

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United Way
of Jackson County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

JACKSON COUNTY RESPONDS TO THEIR NEIGHBORS IN NEED

“TRIPLE MATCH MONDAY” RAISES OVER \$78K FOR BASIC NEEDS

JACKSON, MI (May 28, 2009) – Over \$26,000 in community donations were matched two to one by United Way and other funders to raise over \$78,000 to help Jackson County residents with the rising demand for basic needs. Over 130 individuals and organizations provided donations ranging from one dollar to four thousand dollars.

Neighbors In Need donations are already at work providing utility assistance, transportation assistance and homelessness prevention through several local agencies. Expansion of local food pantry capacity is also underway.

For example, matching dollars from Neighbors In Need made it possible for the Salvation Army to receive an \$18,000 grant to help local residents with utility bills. Approximately \$27,000 in additional funds is now helping Jackson County residents pay for outstanding gas and electric bills.

Funds from Neighbors In Need have enabled the Food Bank of South Central Michigan to hire a local coordinator to improve delivery of increased food shipments to nearly 30 food pantries across Jackson County. In addition, \$50,000 in stimulus dollars has been directed by the Jackson County Emergency Food and Shelter Board to local pantries to help meet the rising demand for food.

Both Reserve-a-Ride and round trip line passes have been provided to several local human service agencies to help Jackson residents access the food, housing and other vital assistance they need. The passes are made possible by both Neighbors In Need funding and as in-kind contributions from the Jackson Transit Authority (JTA).

It is also expected that additional stimulus dollars will be available later this summer to support several local agencies in their efforts to prevent homelessness by providing short-term assistance with utility, rent and mortgage payments. Agencies in the plan include Community Action Agency, Jackson Affordable Housing, AWARE, Inc., Legal Services and the Salvation Army.

Additional information about the Neighbors In Need Community Crisis Response can be obtained by going to the website, www.uwjackson.org/neighbors.

For further information contact Jim Brian, United Way of Jackson County, 796-5125 or jbrian@uwjackson.org.

Attachment: Organizations donating to Neighbors In Need on “Triple Match Monday”

Organizations donating to Neighbors In Need on "Triple Match Monday"

Aware, Inc.

Catholic Charities

Child Care Network

City of Jackson

CP Federal Credit Union

Eaton Employees, Corporation & Hydraulics

Family Service & Children's Aid

First Baptist Church

HRDI Staff

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Jackson Friendly Home

John George Home

Jackson Transportation Authority

Jeremy Schultz Vending

Labor Participation Committee, United Way of Jackson County

Lifespan

LifeWays

Pak Mail

Mag-Tec

Sharp Park Staff

Spring Arbor Free Methodist Church

St John the Evangelist, K of C

St John's Church

Tenants of United Way Center

United Way of Jackson County

Vista Grande Villa

Westminister Presbyterian Church, and

Over 100 Individual Donors