

PRESS RELEASE

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United Way
of Jackson County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN KICKOFF “CANS” HUNGER

“Yes We Can” Can Sculpture Competition provides over 3,500 meals for hungry

JACKSON, Michigan (September 30, 2008). The United Way of Jackson County opened up the 2008 Community Needs Campaign with an “artistic assault” on hunger in Jackson County. The “Yes We Can” can sculpture completion provided the Food Bank of South Central Michigan with over 3,800 pounds of canned and other non-perishable food items.

“We are so grateful to United Way and all the teams that participated in the competition,” said Dan Salerno, Fund Development Director of the Food Bank of South Central Michigan. “To raise nearly 4,000 pounds of food is just outstanding. Even more important are the over 3,500 meals that food is going to provide hungry families in Jackson County.”

Six local teams created sculptures from the canned goods, each uniquely addressing the theme of hunger. The winning sculpture, “Unions Against Hunger”, by the Jackson County Labor Participation Committee, was selected by members of the public who voted for their favorite entry by making a cash donation. Other entries included, “Soup Kitchen”, by the Jackson District Library, “Let’s Table Hunger” by the United Way of Jackson County Campaign Volunteers, “Heroes Against Hunger” by nonprofit tenants of the United Way Center, “Let’s Couch Hunger” by staff members at JTV, and “Girl Scouts CAN Fight Hunger” by the Irish Hills Girl Scouts Council.

The competition was held at 129 East Michigan Avenue in downtown Jackson, at the site of the former Thunderbird Coffee House. Use of the facility was donated by owner Bob Armstrong and realtor Ron Meagher.

Several hundred food items used in the displays were provided at reduced cost by Jackson area Meijer stores. Bone Island Grill donated appetizers while Sandhill Crane Vineyards provided discounted products for those attending the opening night kickoff.

For further information about the Can Sculpture Competition, please contact United Way Fund Development Associate Dea Talmage at 796-5119.

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The United Way supports Jackson County residents through a combination of nearly 50 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.