

Neighbors' needs being met through United Way, community's response

GORDAN THIBEDEAU • JUNE 21, 2010 • FORT COLLINS COLORADOAN

What a remarkable community we live in.

Not only were we one of the top 10 "Make A Difference Day" communities in the nation for 2009, we have recently been notified that we are fourth in the nation in terms of volunteering for midsized communities.

If those distinguished accomplishments were not enough, our community really responded to the difficult economic situation many of our friends, colleagues and neighbors find themselves in by contributing to United Way of Larimer County in a very significant way.

We raised more than \$5.4 million this past year - a 2 percent increase above the previous year. This might not seem like a lot, but it is. And it speaks volumes to the generosity and caring of all of you.

Did you know that 100 percent of individual contributions to United Way of Larimer County stay in our local community?

Your local United Way is fortunate to have its administrative costs completely covered through our Corner-stone Program - a group of corporate partners that underwrites all of our administrative costs annually.

During the past year, 70,000 local people's lives and situations were made better as a result of your contributions.

Without you, this would not have been possible. Thank you.

Walt Disney once said, "The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing."

Larimer County is a community committed to "doing."

And I believe we can do more together. Our fiscal year ends June 30, so as I look forward to our "new year," I'm optimistic about the potential for our economic situation to slowly improve not only here but throughout the nation.

Even with the improved conditions that I believe we will see, we know many of our neighbors will continue to suffer economically. Your continued generosity and passion for community will make the difference.

Gordan Thibedeau is president and CEO of United Way of Larimer County. Reach him at (970) 407-7000. Visit United Way of Larimer County at www.uwaylc.org.
