

United Way raises \$6 million during drive

Charity's coffers are doing well

*By Sarah Bultema
Loveland Reporter-Herald*

With \$6 million collected in donations, the United Way of Larimer County raised more money than ever during its annual fundraising campaign.

The donations reached a 6 percent increase over last year, and coordinators at the fundraising organization are thrilled to have done so well, especially in the weak economy.

“Our community is very generous, and we never cease to be amazed by the giving spirit,” said Pam Davis, United Way of Larimer County’s public information officer.

“It’s great to be in a community of people who take care of their neighbors.”

The millions of dollars were raised from more than 8,000 individual donors, corporate gifts, work place fundraising campaigns, leveraged dollars and grants between July 2008 and this June.

The money will be distributed back into Larimer County communities to help people in need and local nonprofits.

Some of the donations will be given to specific agencies that were designated by the donors.

The rest will go toward parts of the United Way Community Impact Fund, an umbrella fund that aims to ensure basic needs are met for all members of the community through various programs.

“It’s about taking a comprehensive approach to identifying problems in our community,” Davis said.

“Instead of putting a Band-Aid on the problem, we’re going to continue to support long-term solutions and finding root causes of issues affecting our community.”

To start, this fund supports the Solid Foundation Fund, which helps people recover more quickly and completely from crises and emergencies.

A group of community volunteers selected 36 local agencies — including Loveland’s Community Kitchen and Alternatives to Violence — that will be given funding through 2012, when the next funding cycle begins.

In years past, just about every nonprofit that applied for a grant was given one. However, with local nonprofits growing from “a handful” to thousands, coordinators needed to streamline the selection process and focus just on agencies that help fight the root causes of poverty, Davis said.

“The goal is to have each individual meet the basic needs of survival and safety,” she added.

Additionally, the United Way Community Impact Fund also supports the Bridging the Gap Fund, which helps individuals toward long-term success.

From scholarships for single parents hoping to go back to school to the Sister Mary Alice Murphy Center for Hope, a resource center for residents dealing with or facing homelessness, this money aims to improve the quality of people's lives.

Finally, funding contributes to United Way in Action, a program of partnerships and collaborations that addresses the community's most pressing needs. Services like the 211 Call Center and WomenGive are part of this program.

Gordan Thibedeau, president of United Way of Larimer County, said he was happy the community stepped up again this year to support nonprofits and people in need.

"During these times ... truly there is an increased need," he said. "It's wonderful that the community and people do dig deeper when times are tougher."

MORE: For more information about the United Way of Larimer County, call 669-1450 or visit www.uwaylc.org.

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Agencies to be funded July 2009-June 2012 through the Solid Foundation Fund

Adult Care

Catholic Charities Northern
Disabled Resource Services
Elderhaus Adult Day Programs

Basic Health Services

Crossroads Ministry of Estes Park
Disabled Resource Services
House of Neighborly Service
Larimer Center for Mental Health
Northern Colorado AIDS Project
Salud Family Health Centers — Estes Park
Salud Family Health Centers — Fort Collins
Turning Point Center for Youth & Family Development
Women's Resource Center

Child Care

B.A.S.E. Camp
Boys & Girls Clubs of Larimer County
Family Center
Respite Care
United Day Care Center

Food

Community Kitchen
Crossroads Ministry of Estes Park
Estes Park Senior Center
Food Bank for Larimer County
House of Neighborly Service
Meals on Wheels of Fort Collins
Meals on Wheel of Loveland & Berthoud
Volunteers of America, Colorado Branch

Legal Assistance

Colorado Legal Services

Shelter and Housing Assistance

Catholic Charities Northern
Crossroads Ministry of Estes Park
Disabled Resource Services
Homelessness Prevention Initiative
House of Neighborly Service
Interfaith Hospitality Network
Neighbor to Neighbor
Restoration Now

Transportation

Care-A-Van/SAINT
Catholic Charities Northern
Crossroads Ministry of Estes Park
Disabled Resource Services
Matthews House
Special Transit

Utility Assistance

Catholic Charities Northern
Crossroads Ministry of Estes Park
Disabled Resource Services
House of Neighborly Service

Victim Intervention Services

Alternatives to Violence
American Red Cross, Northern Colorado
Crossroads Safehouse
Estes Valley Victim Advocates
Sexual Assault Victim Advocate Center
Suicide Resource Services of Larimer County