

Erin Hardesty Leading 2010 United Way Campaign



This rock star is Erin Hardesty, the 2010 United Way Campaign Chair. She and her Leadership Team are working with hundreds of United Way volunteers to raise \$2+ million. That is the amount needed to provide services that will impact over 85,000 lives in our community in 2011. Erin's day job is Assistant Vice President and Private Banking/Treasury Management Manager for the Union Bank Company. She has been an active member of The Lima Noon Sertoma Club for 13 years, serving on the board, the sponsorship

committee, chair of the fund-raising committee and chair of the pancake committee. She is working to establish a scholarship program for graduate students at Bowling Green State University who are earning their Masters in Communication Disorders. Her 15 year involvement with United Way includes work with various campaign divisions, and serving on the Fund Distribution Committee. She has also served on the Goodwill Industries Board for six years, one year as chair; on Lima UMADAOP's Board and on the Board of the Lima Chamber of Commerce. She is a 1999 graduate of the Allen Lima Leadership Program.

Kindergarten Kamp Community Impact's Initial Program



Stephanie Backus,
Freedom Elementary
Kindergarten Teacher

Kindergarten Kamp is a result of United Way's focus on Community Impact. This program is an initiative of the Youth Success Collaboration between United Way of Greater Lima and the Lima Allen Chamber of Commerce.

At Kindergarten Kamp, students participate in activities to orient them to a regular school day including social interaction. The goals of the program are to improve a child readiness for kindergarten and to promote partnerships among organizations that can impact school readiness. (see page 8)

Pilots Set Pace for Campaign

Thirteen pilot companies and seventeen United Way Partner Agencies conducted early campaigns which set the pace for the general campaign. The results of the early campaigns were announced at the Rock Concert Kick-Off event on September 22nd at Lima Senior High. The campaign kicked-off to a rockin' good start as the 13 pilots formed their own rock bands and entertained the audience with their version of classic rock songs.

Campaign Chair, Erin Hardesty announced that Pilot companies and Leadership gifts raised a total of \$1,129,732 toward the \$2+ million goal. Over 250 volunteers attended the kick-off event. Lima Senior students and instructors did an outstanding job of hosting the event. Culinary Arts' students prepared the buffet dinner. Students from the Art, Graphic Arts and Carpentry departments designed and decorated the room for the event. (see page 10)

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President's Message: "BITS AND PIECES"



Beverly Prueter

How do you know when it is time to retire? Volunteers who have retired from their jobs have told me that "you will know."

~Is it because I remember when I was younger than most of our volunteers, and now I am older than most of them?

~Is it because the roster of United Way CEOs across the country no longer includes many of my long time colleagues? They are now active members of the United Way Retirees Association.

~Perhaps it is the encouragement of some of my volunteers who have vowed to hang in there with me and are now asking "is this the year?"

~Is it because I still have the energy and the passion for the work, but no longer have as much energy left for family and friends (but still passion for family and friends!)?

~Perhaps it is because the obituary columns are beginning to carry more and more photos and information about some of my favorite people, people I have grown up with, respect and care about.

~I can't wear spike heels any longer.

~Of course, there is considerable worry about the impact of today's environment on the lives of our constituents and the difficulties our partners face in providing that increased demand for life saving services.

All of that led me to tell my board that I planned to retire no later than April 21, 2011. Planning for that began with the appointment of a search committee led by board member Jim Reber. I chose that date because it would be the anniversary of my service here; I would have walked through the United Way doors, most of that time in the Pangle Community Service Center building, for 47 years.

I choose to retire for all the reasons above, and the fact that I want to see United Way grow under new leadership with new ideas and thinking. Serving as your president has been a significant privilege and I have worked with so many community leaders (those are people who do what they say they will do and do it with conviction). I have worked with individuals and with employee groups in most businesses and walked on almost every type of shop floor in our community, often carrying a 16 millimeter projector. (That's why one arm is longer than the other!) The DVD is a real improvement.

I have observed the different ways people do their work (a particular interest of mine), and been humbled by the commitment so many people have to this community and to United Way.

There have been changes, improvements, concerns and hard work throughout the years. As an old school fund raiser, I have loved the ability to be in front of people personally to talk about United Way work. The personal face-to-face approach will always be the best approach and it is more difficult to get that time these days. I'm frustrated by the use of online pledging, Facebook and Twitter, but others will excel using these tools.

As the time grew closer, I knew I really wanted to continue to work.

Now I have a new opportunity that awaits me. My husband and I have wanted to move closer to our son in the Los Angeles area, and we like the Phoenix area. I saw an ad for a director's position with the United Way of Pinal County, between Phoenix and Tucson. The adrenalin began to move as I thought about the possibility of continuing to work in the field I love. I applied, and I accepted the position on October 15, with my last day here on November 19, the day of our final campaign report lunch. (see page 5)

November 19th -
Bev's last day in
Lima



United Way Today
Editor: Judy Poling
Photos: Judy Poling
United Way
Marketing Chair:
Kathy Meihls





Crossroads Crisis Center



Emily Wrencher,
Executive Director

The term domestic violence shelter is something most people never think about. For those women and children who stay at the shelter it is a safe haven. A place where they are welcomed by friendly faces and offered hope and help from very difficult situations.

Emily Wrencher has worked with Crossroads for ten years and now serves as their director. In addition to the confidential emergency shelter which is staffed 24/7, they also provide a 24 hour crisis hotline, residential and non residential advocacy and support, court advocacy, victim support groups, children’s programs, and life skills programs. They work with the juvenile court system with juvenile domestic violence prevention and intervention programs and provide public awareness and education programs. Crossroads is staffed with nine full time employees.

In addition to United Way funding, the shelter receives funding from federal and state grants, foundations, and fundraisers. Like many agencies, Crossroads has felt the affects of the economy with an increase in the number of clients, longer stays and all with less funding. 2009 saw a 17% increase in the number served, compared to 2007. A 26% increase is expected for 2010. This is the 30th Anniversary for the shelter. Crossroads was the first, and remains the only, safe and confidential shelter in Allen County. Crossroads was the fourth shelter established in Ohio and 17th nationally. The Christmas holidays continue to be the busiest time of the year at the shelter. Last year, the American Red Cross supplied cots to accommodate the additional people staying at the shelter over the holidays. They also have an agreement with Goodwill. Clients often leave their homes with nothing but the clothes on their back. Goodwill provides clothes for the women and children at no cost.



Cindi Hayes,
Assistant to the Director

The biggest change at the shelter in recent years is where some of the woman come from. They have had women who answered internet ads and found themselves in abusive situations. In the last two years they have served two human trafficking victims. They have had to find interpreters and deal with immigration authorities as they have had women from the Ukraine, Mexico, Bolivia, Australia and El Salvador at the shelter.



Emily was asked what is the one thing she wants the community to know about Crossroads. She replied, “People need to know what we do. If a woman cannot come to the shelter, there is still so much we do to help her. Women need to know what to do. They need to keep extra copies of identification, an extra set of keys and know a place to go to keep themselves safe. The goal of Crossroads is to keep families safe.”

Crossroads
national theme:
“It IS your
business”

Crossroads has two storage facilities where furniture, clothing, bedding and linens are available for women when they leave the shelter. If you have items to donate, call Crossroads at 419-228-6692.

Thank You!

Whatever your role in United Way, you are essential to the success of the United Way campaign. Our goal of \$2+ million will impact over 85,000 lives in our community.



Volunteers - The Backbone of United Way Agencies

Programs provided by United Way agencies would not be possible without the thousands of volunteer hours given by local volunteers. Every year employees conduct company campaigns that take time out of their already busy workday. A special thanks to all employees who organize and run their company campaigns. The success of United Way depends on you! LIVE UNITED. Give. Advocate. Volunteer.



Marilyn Moore

Marilyn Moore volunteers to help United Way prepare for the campaign. Preparing for employee campaigns involves a lot of work and organization. From counting campaign material, to stuffing envelopes, and packing over 500 company packets, the United Way office could not function without our volunteers.



Elaine Swope

Elaine Swope conducts the employee campaign at Procter & Gamble. With over 600 employees this is a very time consuming task. Elaine recruits other volunteers in the company and together they organize numerous lunchtime activities that span several weeks and work to inform all employees about the needs in our community. Elaine's efforts are the foundation to insure a successful United Way campaign.



Carl Berger



Cheryl Wehner

Cheryl Wehner, Employee Campaign Coordinator, organizes the employee campaign at Superior Wholesale Distributors. A successful employee campaign includes support and commitment from the top. Carl Berger, President of Superior Wholesale Distributors provides that commitment year after year. With Cheryl's hard work and Carl's support, Superior Wholesale consistently shows their community support with a very successful employee and corporate campaign.

This is a very small example of United Way volunteers and their role in our campaign. Our community is made up of companies and businesses of all sizes. St. Rita's Medical Center leads the way as the largest area employer. There are many businesses with just a handful of employees. Every company and business conducting a United Way campaign is important. Just as every individual contribution is important. From tocouville contributors to students bringing in their coins to be counted, the success of United Way depends on everyone. And the success of United Way depends on the volunteers conducting those campaigns. United Way cannot give a personal thank you to each volunteer, but we want you to know that whatever your role in a United Way campaign, your efforts are important and very much appreciated! Thank You!

Bits and Pieces, continued.

My next few weeks will be focused on the success of this campaign, led ably by Erin Hardesty, who has great energy and ideas. You know that raising funds is not a quick or easy task. It takes time, patience, and the most visibility we can possibly get. Thanks to our many volunteers who work in all areas of our business, you can be assured that your donations will go far and improve lives in Allen County; volunteers mean accountability to me. I also hope that I will have opportunities to thank you personally through some form of communication. If I do not reach you, please know that your involvement with United Way and its partner agencies, as a contributor, as a volunteer, and as both, is greatly appreciated by me, my staff, and those who need and benefit from services.

Someone asked me "What's the funniest thing that has happened to you on this job?" There are tons of things, but the one incident that always comes to mind is when Sandy MacDonell was campaign chair. He and I were driving to the Dayton airport one cold and very snowy early morning to catch a plane. I was driving a new car and was not familiar with all the bells and whistles. I got onto I-75 and began to travel south. Sandy and I were talking about the campaign, but I began to notice that I was being passed - a lot. It was so bad out and I was

trying to be so careful, but my speedometer said 55 and I thought that was fast enough. I tried 60, but people continued to pass me by. As we got closer to the airport, all these people who had passed me by were in the ditch. Finally we got to the airport around 8 a.m. - the plane was scheduled to leave about 8:30. This was before you had to be there 2 hours ahead to be frisked! As we drove into the airport, the car still said 55. It was then that I realized I had hit a button that put the outputs in Kilometers. We had a good laugh, and the plane was delayed 40 minutes due to weather, so while we may have been slow, we didn't end up in the ditch.

By the time this newsletter is out, I may be gone, but I will not forget the place where I grew up, went to school, watched a child go through the same school (Yea, Lima Senior!), had a great family life, and had a job I went to every day and loved. Staff member Tom Thompson will act as interim director and a transition team of volunteers is in place.

I know I can count on you to continue this work in the years to come and will watch your successes of the future. Your new president will need your help and support, and I know I can count on you to be of help. Thank you!

Thanks for the memories!







Freedom and Unity Elementary Schools were the first Lima City Schools to participate in Kindergarten Kamp, a summer program to improve a child's readiness to begin school.

KRA-L - The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment – Literacy test helps teachers identify early reading skills. It is required of all children entering kindergarten in public schools. The assessment measures skill areas important to becoming a successful reader. It also helps teachers plan for experiences and lessons that encourage reading.

Kindergarten Kamp (continued from page 1)

Kindergarten Kamp community partners include: United Way of Greater Lima, Lima/Allen County Chamber of Commerce, Lima City Schools, Lima Allen County Council on Community Affairs and Allen County Family and Children First Council.

Lima City Schools and Lima Allen Council on Community Affairs operate Kindergarten Kamp. United Way supports Kindergarten Kamp through outcomes oversight and funding, and the Allen County Family and Children First Council through coordination and process oversight.

In the summer of 2009, the first year of the program, thirty-six children enrolled in Kindergarten Kamp at Freedom and Unity elementary schools. The performance of Kindergarten Kamp students was measured by comparing their Kindergarten Readiness Assessment – Literacy (KRA-L) test results to a same-demographic group of students not attending Kindergarten Kamp. KRA-L tests are mandated by the State of Ohio and are given at the beginning of each school year. The Kindergarten Kamp children scored higher than non-kamp children with two achieving perfect scores.

In 2010, 48 children enrolled in Kindergarten Kamp and results will be announced later in the year. Because of the success of this program, plans for 2011 are underway and include the involvement of two additional schools in the program, Liberty and Perry elementary schools.



Grand Marshal Thompson



Roy Hollenbacher, driving Tom Thompson

Tom Thompson, United Way Labor Staff Representative, was honored as Grand Marshal of the Labor Day Parade. Tom oversees union involvement in the United Way campaign and conducts a Union Counseling program for area union representatives. The program informs union representatives of services and programs in the community that might benefit their union members.

Afterschool Programs

United Way partner agencies providing afterschool programs and tutoring:

Salvation Army offers an afterschool program for high school students. The program operates Monday-Friday from 3-5 pm (2-5 pm Wednesdays). They offer tutoring, a snack and meal, and a safe haven for the Lima City youth.

Bradfield Center offers afterschool programs and tutoring for kindergarten through age 12 from 2-6 pm, Monday through Friday.

Girl Scouts provides afterschool programs at Unity, Liberty and Freedom elementary. They also conduct programs at Cheryl Allen Center and Bradfield Center.

Cheryl Allen Center offers afterschool tutoring from 4-5 pm several days a week.

United Way Events

Chicken Bar-B-Que



Jeannie Niles (left) and Laurie Corbett, volunteers from JCPenney,

Despite three downpours and a tornado warning, the first chicken barbeque for United Way on June 11th and 12th was deemed a success. Bill McKissic, owner of Bill's Drive-Thru on North West Street contacted United Way and offered to have a chicken barbeque to help the 2010 campaign. Over 600 dinners were sold, with



Linda Hollar (front), Mellitie Thompson, and Doris Broughton prepared dinners.

deliveries made to local businesses during the lunch hour on Friday. Customers drove thru to pick up dinners and even waited patiently when the rain put a delay on the final grilling process. Whether they were putting up the awning in the rain, packaging dinners, delivering dinners, or holding the flashlights during the power outage, our volunteers made it all possible.



Dave Huckeriede picks up his dinner.

Thanks to the volunteers who made the first chicken barbeque a success: Bill McKissic, Tom Hollenbacher, Dave Webb, Bud Poling, Rodney Raines, Paul Woehlke, Mayor David Berger, Diane Hoffman, Linda Hollar, Penny Hunt, Lisa Harding, Ginny German, Isabel Ortiz, Karen Wagner, Jeannie Niles, Laurie Corbett, Sandra Hills, and Jay and Jessica Begonia.



2010 Golf Scramble



Twenty seven teams enjoyed sunny skies and a great day of golf at Hawthorne Hills on June 26th. Western Sizzlin' prepared a delicious prime rib lunch for the golfers, thanks to Donnie Albrittain. The 24th United Way Golf Scramble was in memory of Les Rau, who supported and volunteered for United Way for close to 40 years. Les served as campaign chair in 1972 and was board chair in 1974. Les was a member of the marketing committee for a number of years until his death in 2009.

First place men's honors went to Rick Croy, Bruce Fuhrman, Dave Farley, and Bob Miley. Donnie Albrittain, Kindle House, Todd Burkholder and Steve Pendergast garnered second place. First place mixed went to Peggy Ehora, Nick Ehora, Brenda Schimmoeller and Dave Schimmoeller. The team of Erin Hardesty, John Miller, Nanci Carroll and Mark Honigford took home second place.



Dave Collins (left) signs in golf team



Donnie Albrittain (left) serving prime rib.

Good friends, great food and pleasant weather made for another successful United Way Golf Scramble. Special thanks to our major sponsors, hole sponsors, the many local businesses who provided door prizes for the event and all of the golfers who came out in support of United Way.

Donnie Albrittain, owner of Western Sizzlin' is a special United Way supporter. This was the fifth year that Donnie has provided a prime rib lunch for the golfers at no charge to United Way. *Thank you!*

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Campaign Kick-Off 2010

Pilot Companies Entertain at Kick-Off

The audience at the 2010 Campaign Kick-Off was thoroughly entertained by Lima's newest rock groups. The Third Floor Band provided back-up for groups. The audience voted and The People's Choice Award went to United We Rock, singing Under The Boardwalk. A Grammy Award will be presented at the Awards Celebration with the winner selected by the judges shown below.



People's Choice Award winner United We Rock.

Group consists of representatives from Lima Memorial Health Systems, Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities and Reineke Lincoln Mercury. Photo includes Campaign Chair, Erin Hardesty, center.



UW and the Sunshine Band - Procter and Gamble, Perry Corp, Union Bank and INEOS



Official judges: (from left, Nick 'Randy Jackson' Gnau; Alberta 'Paula Abdul' Lee, and Drew 'Simon Cowel' Kantonen.



Stevie Gives and United Way Mac Husky, Superior Federal Credit Union, and Macy's.



Boogin' Buckeyes

St. Rita's Medical Center, Metokote, and Superior Wholesale Distributors



Beauties and the Beast - United Way Campaign Leadership Team



The Building Blocks United Way Partner Agencies

EXTREME Community Makeover



United Way's Extreme Community Makeover

This is the third year that area volunteers and companies are providing needed improvements for United Way partner agencies through United Way's Extreme Community Makeover program.

This year eleven local companies provided volunteer teams and monetary sponsorships to make improvements at nine United Way partner agencies. United Way agencies were asked to submit a "wish list" of work or projects needed at their agency. Most of the agencies' budgets go to client services and very little is left over for improvements. The teams have been busy with projects ranging from replacement of a sidewalk at Red Cross, new kitchen flooring at Cheryl Allen Center; and a bathroom remodel at the Girl Scout facility.

Projects were highlighted and awards presented at an Extreme Makeover Awards Breakfast on October 13th. This project has received rave reviews from agencies as well as the volunteers. A PowerPoint presentation of before and after photos of the projects can be seen at www.unitedwaylima.org. Area volunteer teams and the agencies they were paired with are:

- Alloway Environmental Testing - Literacy Council
- General Dynamics - Salvation Army
- Husky Energy - Goodwill Easter Seals
- Ineos - American Red Cross
- K&M Tire - Delphos Senior Citizens
- Potash, T&D Interiors, and DeHaven's Garden Center - The Arc
- Procter & Gamble - West Ohio Food Bank
- Smith Boughan - Girl Scouts
- St. Rita's Medical Center - Cheryl Allen Center



St. Rita's employees enjoyed a cookout at Cheryl Allen Center after the completion of the kitchen makeover at the Center. From left, Curt Courtad, Dora Johnson - Cheryl Allen Director; Jennifer VanTilburg, and Eric Lively.

Local volunteers are doing it all! They are LIVING UNITED. Giving, Advocating, and Volunteering with the Extreme Community Makeover



Paul Wong puts finishing touches on the painting at Cheryl Allen Center.

View "before and after" presentation of the Extreme Makeover projects on our website, www.unitedwaylima.org



Procter & Gamble volunteers at West Ohio Food Bank



Husky volunteer at Goodwill Easter Seals

T&D Interiors volunteer at The Arc



St. Rita's volunteer at Cheryl Allen Center



K&M Tire volunteers at Delphos Senior Citizens



Make yours a lasting gift - remember the United Way of Greater Lima in your will or trust. Your gift can be added to the United Way Endowment Fund.



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UNITED WAY ROCKS

- Third Campaign Report Lunch - November 19th
- 2010 Awards Celebration - January 19, 2011



A new website was recently launched for United Way. Check us out at www.unitedwaylima.org



The EITC Tax Assistance Coalition is providing free tax assistance to our community. The program trains volunteers to prepare simple federal and state tax returns for working families, elderly, and individuals with disabilities. Tax returns are prepared at no cost and training is free.

Anyone can volunteer. No tax accounting experience is necessary, only a desire to help others in need. Volunteers participate in several training options, in class or through self-study. Computers are used to prepare and transmit tax returns. Other volunteer opportunities include volunteer greeter and volunteer screener.

Training dates are December 15, 16 & 17. You can also use link and learn at www.irs.gov. Call the United Way office to register or for more information, 419-227-6341.