



UNITED WAY OF BEMIDJI AREA
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NOVEMBER 23, 2009

TO: ALL MEDIA

FR: ASHLI BOWEN , EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RE: 2009 UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN RESULTS

Bemidji MN – Monday evening, one hundred fifty guests gathered at the Hampton Inn's Southshore Conference Center to celebrate the close of the United Way of Bemidji Area's fall fund raising campaign for the community. During the "Thanks a Brady Bunch" Victory Dinner, the United Way's communications committee dressed as Brady Bunch family members and characters from popular 1970's TV shows revealed the campaign total to date of \$406,703.

Seventy-five businesses ran and completed United Way internal workplace campaigns this year. The United Way's campaign cabinet, which is divided into eleven divisions and chaired by eighteen volunteers, worked effortlessly to help the United Way reach 97.5% of the campaign's goal, \$417,000. The division chairs include: Jim Aylesworth, Professional Division; JoAnne Daniels and Sandy White, Business Division; Kari Knudson and Robin Myers, Healthcare Division; Missy Thomas and Rebecca Hoffman, Agency Division; Susan Flicek and Kim Kusler, Bemidji Area Schools; Troy Haluptzok and Scott Kurtzweg, Commercial Division; Scott Turn, Major Gift Division; Sheila Miller, Public Service Division; Joe Czapiewski and Lisa Bruns, BSU and Northwest Tech; John Motto, Special Gifts Division; and Penny Echternach and Judy Comstock, Pillar Division.

Victory Dinner emcee Johnny Lee Walker joined Mike and Pam Beard 2009 campaign co-chairs, and United Way Board President, Dane Jones to honor and recognize the outstanding achievements that went into the 2009 campaign.

The following awards were presented at the dinner:

DIRECTOR'S AWARDS:

BRONZE:

Awarded to internal campaigns with a 50% or more employee participation rate and 5% increase in employee pledges over last year:

Boys and Girls Club of the Bemidji Area
Deerwood Bank

Miller McDonald
Security Bank USA
The Evergreen House, Inc.

SILVER:

Awarded to internal campaigns with a 60% or more employee participation rate and 7% increase in employee pledges over last year:

Headwaters Regional Development Commission
Northwoods Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers
Potlatch

GOLD:

Awarded to internal campaigns with a 70% or more employee participation rate and 10% increase in employee pledges over last year:

Bemidji FedEx Express
Dondelinger GM
Northwest Minnesota Foundation
Paul Bunyan Broadcasting
Pinnacle Publishing
RiverWood Bank
Widseth Smith Nolting

EMPLOYEE PARTICIPATION AWARDS:

Over 10,000 in employee gifts & fundraisers

Bemidji Area Schools
Beltrami Electric Cooperative
Bemidji State University
North Country Business Products
RiverWood Bank

Over \$15,000 in employee gifts and fundraisers

First National Bank Bemidji
North Country Business Products

Over \$20,000 in employee gifts and fundraisers

MeritCare Clinic
North Country Health Services

PRESIDENT'S AWARDS

Given to businesses and corporations with contributions of \$1,000 or more.

President's - \$1,000 to \$4,999

Ameripride Services
Bank Forward/Insure Forward
Bemidji Co-op
Bemidji (noon) Rotary Club

Dondelinger GM
EAPC Architects
Hills Plumbing and Heating
JCPenney
Ken K Thompson
Kraus Anderson Construction
Lueken's Village Foods
MeritCare
North Country Business Products
Northway Insurance
Otter Tail Power Company
Paul Bunyan Telephone
Potlatch
Renaissance Hearing Center
RiverWood Bank
Target
U.S. Pipeline
Wells Fargo

President's Plus - \$5,000 to \$9,999

Enbridge
Knife River Materials

President's Plus Plus - over \$10,000

First National Bank Bemidji

In addition, United Way's Executive Director Ashli Bowen recognized Enbridge and U.S. Pipeline employees working on the Alberta Clipper Spread 3 and Southern Lights Spread 5, and Blake Olson, technical supervisor, Enbridge (Bemidji), by presenting them with the Director's Award of Excellence. The award recognizes the efforts of those who go above and beyond to support United Way. Olson runs the United Way workplace campaign at Enbridge (Bemidji) and was instrumental in helping United Way secure support from the Pipeliners. Enbridge and U.S. Pipeline along with the pipeline employees working on the Alberta Clipper Spread 3 and Southern Lights Spread 5 contributed \$11,756 to the United Way's campaign for the community.

Melissa and Chris Vacek were announced as the United Way Campaign Chairs for 2010. Melissa is event coordinator at Hampton Inn & Suites South Shore Conference Center. She has served on United Way's communications committee since 2004 and the allocations committee since 2006. Chris is media consultant at RP Broadcasting and began volunteering with the United Way this year, serving on the communications committee.

Contributions to the 2009 United Way's campaign will be accepted through December 31, 2009. You may mail a contribution to United Way, PO Box 27, Bemidji, MN 56619 or visit www.liveunitedbemidji.org to give online. All contributions will be receipted for tax purposes.

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