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## Upcoming Events:

**Campaign Kickoff  
& Day of Caring  
Friday,  
September 16th  
Eau Claire Indoor  
Sports Center  
7:30 AM**

## Extreme Makeover - Community Style...

Eau Claire is soon to be hit by an extreme makeover team! No... we won't be receiving a visit from ABC's Ty Pennington, and no plastic surgery will be involved. Eau Claire will be getting an Extreme Community Makeover! 2005's Day of Caring team of volunteers will be hitting the streets on Friday, September 16th, all over Eau Claire County in the most widespread Day of Caring to date.

More and more non-profit organizations in the area are taking advantage of the great things United Way's Day of Caring volunteers are able to accomplish! In addition to United Way's Program Partner sites, volunteers will be completing projects for the Community Beautification Association, Beaver Creek Reserve, Eau Claire County Parks & Rec, Eau Claire Area Schools, Eau Claire Regional Arts Center, and many others!

This one-day community ser-

vice volunteer event and an extreme home makeover have more in common than you may think. Though we may not be providing the type of material items a television network can, one thing remains the same. The project team always learns something amazing about the family they are working with, or in our case, non-profit organization that they didn't know when they started that makes a difference in their life. For many of our Day of Caring volunteers, this is the first time they have stepped foot into a homeless shelter, learned what a transitional home is, or found out that the organization they're working for even exists. Day of Caring is a unique opportunity to learn about these organizations while bonding with coworkers over a paintbrush or rake. A truly rare win-win-win situation! Organizations win by saving thousands of precious dollars on labor. Participating compa-

nies win by providing employees with a great teambuilding experience, and volunteers win by learning more about their community and the pure satisfaction that they have done something great for a deserving organization, and the place that they live. So, tune in on Friday, September 16th to see the ultimate in extreme makeovers - more than 500 volunteers making our community a more beautiful place to live, assisting our Partner Agencies, and helping our neighbors by coming together - United in caring.

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## Kickoff... and take-off!

Join us on Friday, September 16th at the Eau Claire Indoor Sports Center for Campaign Kickoff 2005!

Celebrate the official kickoff to the Community Campaign by sending off hundreds of Day of Caring Volunteers, recognizing the efforts of our Pacesetter

companies, and starting the amazing weekly incentive prize drawings a little early! Everyone who attends the kickoff celebration will be eligible for the first amazing prize - a trip for two to Elko, Nevada including air, hotel and ground transportation! (See page 3 for the

full list of amazing incentive prizes!) You must be present to win, so get your whole campaign team together for this fun event.

Festivities start at 7:30AM, so be there in plenty of time to grab your donut and coffee before the winning begins!



## Spotlight on: Xcel Energy

Xcel Energy has long been a key community partner of United Way of Greater Eau Claire.

For the 2004 Campaign, Xcel's corporate and employee gifts reached \$125,848, with 42% of employees participating in the campaign and an average gift at the Leadership Circle level. Xcel Energy's corporate and employee gifts to the community total more than one million dollars over the last 10 years!

Many Xcel Energy employees are actively involved with United Way's work in the community.

**Mike Swenson** is a member of the Board of Directors Executive Committee. He is a member of the Campaign Cabinet and Leadership Circle Committee, helping to recruit members of the Leadership Circle.

**Oscar Brandser** and **Don Reck** serve as a Solution Team Chairs, making decisions related to United Way's community investments. **Tina Bourget** and **Paula Stolp** both serving as members of Solution Teams.

**Julie Thoney** heads up the team of Day of Caring volunteers, which has earned Xcel the Day of Caring award in both 2003 and 2004, for the phenomenal effort put out by the more than 30 member volunteer team.

Thanks to **Dave Donovan** and **Maureen Williams** for running such a great company campaign in 2004, with **Chris Ouellette** and **Tom Bower** stepping in for 2005, and all of the donors at Xcel Energy for continuing to invest in what matters!

## From the Director's Desk...

Harvard sociologist Robert Putnam declared that communities are healthier if they enjoy high levels of something called "social capital." In his much-quoted 2000 book *Bowling Alone: the Collapse and Revival of American Community*, he wrote about the networks of people who know and trust each other; the community's social capital. In the wake of the unimaginable destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina, thousands of people are waiting helplessly to return to their communities while our collective concern for their well-being consumes our thoughts.

Communities across our country have mobilized to help lead recovery efforts—networks of people knowing, trusting and

caring for each other. We in the Eau Claire area are proud of the way that we help each other, and for good reason. We recognize our bright and promising future. We understand our friends, neighbors and family concerns and joys.

Campaign Chair Dean Olson's recognition that this is the year for the community to respond to our own friends and neighbors in a positive and dynamic way is pivotal. He understands that rallying the community together to increase their investments in United Way has the incredible potential to secure our community's well-being far into the future.

He is leading this effort along with a proactive campaign



Kris Becker, Executive Director

cabinet that is committed to increasing total revenue. It easily translates into positive impact in our community—changed lives, improved conditions, sustainable impact.

Dean's Cabinet is willingly stepping up to the challenge. It is impossible to list the hundreds of people who volunteer their time and talent to improve the lives of people we care about. However, we can state unequivocally that our community has an extremely high level of social capital.

## It was a dark and stormy night...

The fourth annual Celebrate the Circle event started out with a bang... or rather, a clap of thunder! Thursday, August 18th was one of the summer's rainiest days, but that didn't keep people from attending the traditionally outdoor event.

Held at GEM Gardens, partygoers gathered in the tent to mingle with fellow Circle members and United Way volunteers. The weather kept

attendees contained in the tent for most of the evening, but judging from the noise level within, it didn't seem to bother anyone.

When the rain did let up, guests were able to tour the many pathways, the amazing larch maze, and the newly dedicated "Nancy's Garden," celebrating the life of Nancy McKinley.

Guests enjoyed an amazing French-themed dinner by candlelight within the tented "Bistro." You'd never know you were still in Eau Claire...

Thanks to these companies for sponsoring this event:

Badger West Distributing, RCU, Charter Bank, Wipfli, Xcel Energy, McKinley Companies, Wells Fargo, M&L Brands, and Ruder, Ware & Michler

## Fall Family Fun!

The Emerging Leaders Society Fall Roundup Event is planned for Thursday, October 27 and is sure to be a great family evening! What started as a meet and greet event two years ago has turned into an opportunity like no other. Held in the barn at the home of Dave & Michelle Markquart, the Fall

Roundup event has something for everyone. There will be pumpkins to decorate, face painting, supervised activities and prizes for the kids... which allows Mom & Dad the opportunity to chat with friends and meet new people without worry! The event is fully sponsored by great United Way

partners, so there is no cost to attend. Pick your favorite pair of jeans, invite your friends, round up the kids and join us for this great event! For more information, please contact Angie at 834-5043.



## Board Certification Seminars Begin

Serving on the board of directors of a non-profit organization is a rewarding opportunity, and a great way for someone to be involved in their community. Board members collaborate to make vital decisions for the non-profit they serve. Their decisions impact the formation, sustainability, and community presence of the organization.

The Emerging Leader Board Training Sessions are interactive sessions which help to better prepare young leaders to sit on a non-profit board of

directors. Topic sessions are designed to address issues that arise, and will be presented by a range of dynamic speakers who have experience in leadership and serving on non-profit boards. Practical sessions are also offered for an opportunity to actively engage in what it is really like to be in a board meeting.

The goal of the training program is to prepare Emerging Leaders with the skills and knowledge needed to proactively participate on a non-profit board of directors. This,

in turn, increases positive community outcomes by giving up-coming leaders the proper training to effectively participate in improving the quality of life in Eau Claire County.

Board Training Sessions begin on October 4, 2005 and run twice monthly through January 2006. If you are interested in registering for the Board Training Sessions, please contact Angie at 834-5043, or email [amothes@unitedwayeauclaire.org](mailto:amothes@unitedwayeauclaire.org).

## United Way 101: The Community Solutions Fund

The Community Solutions Fund has been referred to as your 'investment portfolio' for your community. A gift to the Community Solutions Fund allows experienced volunteers to invest in four focused solution areas to make the maximum impact possible in Eau Claire County.

Your gift is used where it is most effective. These decisions are based on reviews of grant applications, the ability for these programs to demonstrate real client results, col-

laborative efforts, other sources of funds available, historical trends, and the viability of the programs to be sure they will be here to serve the community in the future.

All of these criteria are taken into consideration during the four-month fund distribution process. Dollars are not allocated until the volunteers are absolutely certain as to how the investment will be handled - ensuring positive results in the lives of their clients.

The Community Solutions

Fund allows the individual donor and the community as a whole to make the most impact in a person's life, as it is rare that someone is affected by only one issue. United Way's funded programs care for the whole person, encompassing prenatal programs, all phases of life and into bereavement. The programs work together, collaborating to make a positive impact on the person, their family, and ultimately, our community.

## Success By Six Summit

United Way's role in Success By 6 varies from community to community across this nation. The roles of facilitator, broker, convener, community problem solver, and leader have all been adopted by United Ways engaged in early childhood impact work through SB6. In bringing the initiative to Eau Claire, United Way of Greater Eau Claire will play these roles as well.

Through partnership and collaboration with community members who care about early

childhood development, we are able to positively affect policies, procedures, and programs that impact young children and their families. In progressing forward with the Success By 6 Initiative - **helping all children succeed for life** - a SB6 Summit Meeting will be held in October.

The SB6 Summit Meeting will bring together community members who are involved with early childhood issues in the Eau Claire area to learn about the United Way SB6

initiative and its goals for the Eau Claire community. Key community members in support of changing the future through the lives of our children will also speak at this event - demonstrating the partnership and collaboration we have already achieved through this initiative.

If you are interested in receiving an invitation to the SB6 Summit, please contact Angie Mothes at 834-5043 or [amothes@unitedwayeauclaire.org](mailto:amothes@unitedwayeauclaire.org).

## Fridays are SUPER this fall!

If your company campaign is complete by the date of the drawing, you're eligible for the weekly prize! All entries remain until the last prize is drawn... so the earlier your campaign wraps up, the more opportunities you have to win!

Prize Drawings will be held at 9:00A.M. at the United Way office on date listed

### Sept. 23 - Trip for two (Air & hotel!) to Laughlin, Nevada

Value - \$500 - Donated by Riverside Resort

### Sept. 30 - 4 Packers Tickets

Value - \$500 - Donated by Charter Bank

### Oct. 7 - One 1-hour massage per month for a year!

Value - \$720 - Donated by Retreat Spalon

### Oct. 14 - \$500 Gift Certificate to Williams Diamond Center

Value - \$500 - Donated by Williams Diamonds

### Oct. 21 - 1 Minute Shopping Spree at Mega Pick n' Save

Value - \$500 - Donated by Mega Pick n' Save

### Oct. 28 - \$1,000 Savings Bond

Value - \$500 - Donated by People's Bank

### Nov. 4 - 2 Reserved Seat 4-Day Passes to Country Jam 2006

Value - \$500 - Donated by Country Jam USA

### Nov. 11 - Dinner at Sweetwaters/ \$50 month for 10 mos.

Value - \$500 - Donated by Sweetwaters

### Nov. 18 - Catered Party Pkg.

Value - \$500 - Donated by Festival Foods

**Here's how you enter! Donors will be eligible for all drawings after the date their company's campaign results are turned in to the United Way office...**

\$50 pledge (a buck a week) = 1 ticket

\$75 pledge = 2 tickets total

\$100 pledge = 3 tickets total

\$125 pledge = 4 tickets total

\$150 pledge = 5 tickets total

\$175 pledge = 6 tickets total

**\$200 pledge = 7 tickets total**

Are you a hero?  
Are your co-workers?  
How about your kids?

United Way superhero  
T-shirts are available for only  
**\$5.00** each! These shirts  
make great gifts and incen-  
tives for givers in your com-  
pany! Make Fridays a SUPER  
day in your place of business!  
Available in sizes 2T- XXL



## Thank You!

Thanks to our amazing  
sponsors for keeping our  
kickoff attendees and hun-  
dreds of Day of Caring  
volunteers well fed!

Mega Pick'n'Save,  
Kwik Trip,  
Sam's Club,  
Copp's Food Center,  
Festival Foods,  
Ron's Castle Foods,  
Kerm's on Water Street,  
Pinehurst Foods,  
Gordy's County Market,  
Sara Lee Outlet,  
Pepsi and  
Kwik Café.

## Success Story: Your Dollars at Work

United Way of Greater Eau Claire has been receiving thank you cards from program recipients, which we then forward to our corporate partners so they have a direct link to those they are supporting.

Following are excerpts from a number of those thank you cards...

I am the parent of two special needs children. Thank you so much for providing play therapy services for our family. It has greatly improved my parenting skills and helped our family form into a unit!

- A Thankful Mom

Thank you for helping me to understand my life, and helping me to get (my) life together. Thank you!

- Zach

I would like to thank United Way for the opportunity to help make my life a lot better. Without this program, I would still be going down a path that

I really don't like. Now, I am a better person. Thanks United Way.

- Amanda

Thank you for providing care for uninsured families through your donations. I am grateful for the support you have given us.

- Anna

Thank you for making a difference in my families life. Without your contributions I would unfortunately be less informed about child development.

- David

Thank you for the use of the Haven, funded by United Way.

We really do appreciate the shelter you have provided us at our hard time.

- Adam, Erika and Isabella

I am glad that I can learn English. It helps me to know how my children are doing at school. Thank you.

- Song

I enjoy working at the Career Development Center. I have done a variety of jobs here and I learn more every day. I would personally like to thank you for your contribution and hope they will continue.

- Ed