

## United Way raises the bar with \$285,000 campaign goal

Written by CAROL POMEDAY

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### Northern Ozaukee branch steps up fundraising effort in response to community needs

United Way of Northern Ozaukee County is ready to kick off its campaign to raise \$285,000, which is \$22,000 more than was raised last year.

The goal is greater because the needs of the community are greater, said Barbara Bates-Nelson, United Way executive director.

"I'm very concerned about what is going to happen this year with the Y and us having fundraising at the same time," she said, referring to the Keep the Faith campaign to raise \$1 million by Sept. 29 when the Faith Family Ozaukee YMCA in Saukville is scheduled to be sold at auction.

While that's a worthy endeavor she supports, Bates-Nelson said, she hopes area residents also remember that there are many people in the community who struggle to meet day-to-day needs.

In March, United Way awarded \$179,000 to 15 nonprofit agencies in the county.

Last month, it awarded another \$50,000 in community impact grants to eight agencies to start new programs. The grants came from funds received between March and June, bringing the total money awarded to \$227,000, Bates-Nelson said.

"We continue to see unmet needs within the community," she said. "We want to be supportive and raise the bar on what we do for the community. Because every agency is running so lean, sometimes they can't do some of the things they want to do."

The grants will fund the following programs:

- Advocates Inc., which provides shelter and services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, received \$14,500 to help individuals who are on the verge of losing their homes. The grant will provide up to one month's back rent due to an unforeseen expense. The agency will provide support and case management for people at risk of being homeless.
- Balance Inc. received \$4,000 to develop programs for children with disabilities to improve their social skills.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ozaukee received \$4,000 to provide college mentors in schools for at-risk children in kindergarten through eighth grade.
- Family Sharing of Ozaukee will use a \$3,500 grant to provide fans, blankets and other items for migrant workers.

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- The Jail Literacy Program received \$1,220 to develop art workshops for inmates.
- Ozaukee Family Services received \$4,000 for parent cafes, a four-part series in adult learning and family support to develop parent leadership opportunities.
- Portal Inc. received \$6,465 to provide training for work incentive benefits specialists to assist people with disabilities who enter the workplace.
- Volunteer Center of Ozaukee received \$5,000 to coordinate a holiday-needs program for people who are alone or depressed during the holidays.



“We’re very humbled each year when we review the applications for the grants,” Bates-Nelson said. “Although we were able to help many through this year’s grants, there is still more to be done.”

“We received requests that far exceeded our budget, all a result of the financial challenges that a growing segment of our community is facing.”

A kickoff for the campaign will be held from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 18, in the Port Washington State Bank’s community room, formerly the Wilson House.

Honorary chairmen for the 2014-15 campaign are Ruth Lansing and Warren Stumpe.

For more information on the campaign, visit [www.unitedwayno.org](http://www.unitedwayno.org) or call Bates-Nelson at (248) 613-7855.