

# United Way closes in on \$250,000 fund goal

■ *Northern Ozaukee agency expects to receive enough donations to cover \$13,000 shortfall*

By **KRISTYN HALBIG ZIEHM**

Ozaukee Press staff

The United Way of Northern Ozaukee wrapped up its annual campaign last week just \$13,000 under its goal of \$250,000, but Executive Director Barbara Bates-Nelson said she believes the group will be able to obtain enough funds to meet its target.

"I'm still the eternal optimist and hope in the next two weeks we'll pick up enough to meet the goal," she said. "I feel like the community was overwhelming in its support this year.

"We're just a little shy of our goal, but even with that, we're \$25,000 over and above where we were last year."

United Way has pledged \$173,5000 to the 16 agencies it helps fund, she said, and has also committed to financing community impact grants for new programs.

"We don't know the exact amount of those grants yet," Bates-Nelson said.

United Way of Northern Ozaukee raised more funds this year than in the past, she said, and it also set its goal \$25,000 higher than last year.

"We have been very aggressive in setting our goals," she said. "We knew it was going to be a stretch going in."

The need is particularly acute, Bates-Nelson said, noting that the agencies funded by United Way have come under increased pressure due to the recent economic downturn.

Not only has the need for services increased, but government funding and other sources of income have been trimmed as well.

To reach its goal this year, United Way worked to develop new business partners while continuing to nurture past participants, Bates-Nelson said.

"We're taking steps in the right direction," she said.

In addition to its traditional allocations to agencies, United Way last week presented Advocates of Ozaukee with a \$5,000 check to help it repair damage from a fire earlier this month at the shelter it operates for battered women and children. That money came from United Way's reserve fund, Bates-Nelson said.

This year's United Way allocations include \$76,000 for programs dedicated to nurturing families and children; \$19,000 to help the elderly remain independent; \$42,500 to remove barriers to disabled residents and \$36,000 to programs and agencies that offer a helping hand to people, Bates-Nelson said.

The agencies funded through United Way of Northern Ozaukee include Advocates of Ozaukee, American Red Cross, Balance, Bay Lakes Council of the Boy Scouts, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ozaukee, Cope Services, Family Sharing of Ozaukee, Girl Scouts of Manitou Council, Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee County, Starting Point, Ozaukee County Circle of Friends, Ozaukee County Jail Literacy Program, Ozaukee Family Services, Portal Industries, Salvation Army and the Volunteer Center of Ozaukee County.

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