

United Way tops local fundraising goal

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United Way of Northern Ozaukee has met and exceeded its annual goal of \$285,000, thanks to a couple last-minute contributions, Executive Director Barbara Bates-Nelson has announced.

United Way, which is celebrating its 65th anniversary, received a \$7,700 donation from 100+ Women Who Care, Ozaukee chapter and a gift from an estate of more than \$50,000, she said.

“We were very blessed this year,” Bates-Nelson said. “For the last couple years, the campaign has increased slightly, but basically we were flatlining while the needs have kept increasing. This will certainly help.”

Bates-Nelson said last week that the exact amount raised by this year’s campaign isn’t yet known, noting several companies have prom-

■ *Northern Ozaukee agency exceeds \$285,000 mark thanks to late contributions from women’s group, estate*

ised donations that have not been received. The campaign closes its book on March 31.

The unexpected donations from 100+ Women Who Care and the estate will ensure that United Way will be able to fund its agencies and put a little money aside as a cushion for next year, she said.

Until she learned of those donations, she was concerned whether the agency would manage to reach its goal this year, Bates-Nelson said.

“I was losing a lot of sleep over it,” she said, noting that the agencies funded by United Way had sought a 23% increase in their allocations. “It was going to be a tough year to decide how to allocate the funds.

“It gets tougher and tougher each year to raise money. There are a lot of great charities out there.”

The funds from 100+ Women Who Care is committed to homelessness prevention in Ozaukee County, something that United Way has embraced in the last couple years, Bates-Nelson said.

Last year, she said, 102 families sought homeless assistance funds.

“That’s not something we take lightly,” she said.

The funds from the organization came just as the homelessness prevention initiative was running out of funds, Bates-Nelson said.

United Way has one more fundraiser

planned for this season — the second annual purse raffle being held in conjunction with Ladies Night Out on April 14.

The “Power of the Purse” raffle will be headquartered at Port Washington State Bank during the event. Roughly 20 purses will be raffled, including a handblown glass piece.

Money raised by United Way goes to support 15 community agencies and to finance special initiatives through community impact grants.

Last year, United Way of Northern Ozaukee distributed \$249,730. Of that, \$184,700 was through direct support of nonprofit agencies.

The community impact grants go to fund programs that address four priorities — homelessness prevention, substance abuse, mental health and access to health care.