

**JOIN
HANDS**

**OPEN
YOUR
HEARTS**

**LEND
YOUR
MUSCLE**

**FIND
YOUR
VOICE**

**LIVE
UNITED**

Issue No. 6

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MISSION STATEMENT

United Way Fox Cities improves lives by bringing diverse people together to build a stronger, more caring community for everyone.

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Rock the Block



United Way Fox Cities is supporting the Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity's neighborhood revitalization initiative Rock the Block® with a multi-year, \$300,000 grant. The grant will invest in neighborhoods struggling with decreasing

property values and an increasing number of rental properties. John Weyenberg, Executive Director of Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity said, "This is a very significant gift for us. It gives us the ability to serve countless numbers of families throughout the Fox Cities and launch Rock the Block®."

In September 2015, Habitat kicked off Rock the Block® near the former Pierce Manufacturing site in Appleton. This May, Rock the Block® served Neenah's Downtown West neighborhood. Expansion of the project will continue to Menasha in 2016. Over the next few years, Habitat plans to build new homes, rehab and repair homes, and help develop neighborhood leaders throughout the Fox Cities. **(Continued on Page 2)**



Tony Gonzalez, Vice President of Community Development at United Way Fox Cities

Rock the Block

(Continued from Page 1)

Ryan Roth, Habitat's Community Development manager, is looking forward to building upon the success of Habitat's first Rock the Block® event. "We completed 31 repair and improvement projects with the help of over 500 volunteers and many community organizations. Since then, five homeowners began more extensive repair work through Habitat's Home Repair program, with another handful of neighbors completing home improvement projects on their own" Roth says.

United Way Fox Cities is proud to be a part of these efforts. United Way uses the LIFE Study (Leading Indicators for Excellence) to look at the overall quality of life in the Fox Cities, determine community needs and make investment decisions. The most recent LIFE study emphasized the condition of housing in established neighborhoods as an area of strong concern. Peter Kelly, President and CEO of United Way Fox Cities said, "We are committed to improving the lives of struggling low-income families and households and recognize the importance of having safe, stable housing in thriving neighborhoods. The formation of this initiative will serve as a valuable resource and will strengthen the support systems available to help a growing number of low-income households to be more self-sufficient." ■



(Above) United Way Fox Cities Youth Board students provided an evening of fun and games at Badger Sports Park for children participating in Best Friends of Neenah-Menasha.

Annual Report to the Community



Tim Short, Peter Kelly (President and CEO at United Way Fox Cities), and Mike Hochholzer.

More than 300 supporters, volunteers, and agency partners joined us for the 2015 United Way Fox Cities Report to the Community. We honored Tim Short and Mike Hochholzer, recipients of the Wes Urch Volunteer Service Award who exemplify our mission: to build a stronger, more caring community for everyone.

The program featured keynote speaker Dr. Dipesh Navsaria, founding medical director of Reach Out and Read Wisconsin who captivated attendees with a presentation about early childhood development and literacy. Locally, Reach Out and Read Partners – Fox Cities is expanding to all 33 local clinics, putting books in the hands of children when they visit their healthcare providers. ■



Dr. Dipesh Navsaria, founding medical director of Reach Out and Read WI.

Labor Council Awards Volunteer



Mark Westphal, President of the Fox Valley Area Labor Council and Bill Becher.

Congratulations to Bill Becher for receiving the Fox Valley Area Labor Council Volunteer of the Year Award.

Bill was awarded for his outstanding involvement in his local union and as a community volunteer. ■

Answering the Call for Help

We are excited to welcome Lisa Smith to the team as the United Way 2-1-1 Manager. For the past 14 years, Lisa served as Program Manager for Child Care Resource & Referral. In her role at United Way, Lisa manages the 2-1-1 call center.



2-1-1 is a free, confidential information and referral service anyone can call, any time of day, seven days a week to connect to health and human services.

This past October, we received a call from a woman whose apartment building was destroyed in a fire. Our call center specialist remembers, "She was staying in a hotel. She had found another apartment and could pay the first month's rent, but needed help paying the security deposit. I gave her contact information for a foundation and said she should tell them about her situation. Within three days of calling 2-1-1, her deposit was paid. She was very happy."

How does 2-1-1 work? After a caller's specific needs are identified, 2-1-1 specialists search a statewide database of resources and provide the caller with information about how to contact the closest and most appropriate health and human services. ■

Eat Well for Less

For over a year, United Way Fox Cities and Oshkosh Area United Way have provided direction and support for the Weight of the Fox Valley as the initiative works to build a community that achieves and maintains a healthy weight at every age. To advance its mission, the Weight of the Fox Valley has formed partnerships throughout Calumet, Outagamie, and Winnebago Counties, and started new projects that encourage healthy habits.



On Saturday, June 4 the Weight of the Fox Valley will kick off a new project to help local families make



smart choices at the grocery store. In partnership with Woodman's Food Market in Appleton, *Eat Well for Less*, will feature a recipe of the month that provides the right balance of nutrition and price. Each month, the project will have a new recipe card distributed in various aisles at Woodman's. The recipes serve four people for \$3 or less per person. Check it out! ■

(Right) David G. Voss, Jr., President & CEO of Miron Construction Co., Inc., presented at the April United Way Fox Cities Emerging Leaders CEO talk. Now in its eighth year, Emerging Leaders is proud to count nearly 800 men and women age 40 and under, giving \$500 or more. Membership in Emerging Leaders can include volunteer opportunities, community & networking events, CEO Talks, and participation in Emerging Leaders' committees. To find out more about Emerging Leaders, visit www.unitedwayfoxcities.org/campaign/emerging-leaders. ■





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**“If you want to go fast, go alone.
If you want to go far, go together.”**

-African Proverb

United Way Fox Cities works every day to improve lives and create lasting change in our community. If you have given, advocated, or volunteered, you are a part of the stories featured throughout this year's annual report. Your contributions address our community's greatest needs, including:

- helping children succeed in school;
- building healthy families;
- assisting people in meeting their basic needs;
- and improving access to mental health services.

You have generously joined us in our work. Let's continue to go far together, let's continue to LIVE UNITED.

Thank you!

