

Will you join the LIVE UNITED Story?

Issue No. 4

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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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Volunteers Make an Impact

Through an exciting new partnership with Kimberly-Clark's Depend® brand and United Way Worldwide, United Way Fox Cities was chosen as one of ten United Ways nationally to expand volunteer outreach to encourage healthy, active and independent living at all ages. United Way Fox Cities used this opportunity to engage Fox Cities residents in two special volunteer events to pack literacy and healthy meal kits for distribution to low-income families.



With the help of the Volunteer Center of East Central Wisconsin and the Volunteer Center's RSVP 55+ Volunteer Program, 90 volunteers responded in less than 5 days to help pack the kits. In late January, 56 volunteers worked in teams to pack more than 700 literacy kits for pre-kindergarten through sixth grades. The kits contained grade-appropriate Scholastic® books and a flyer to promote reading as a family. Two weeks later, more than 500 healthy meal kits containing all of the ingredients for a healthy soup recipe were assembled by 34 volunteers. Volunteers at the events had a great time giving back to their community through these events; one volunteer said, "I enjoyed being a part of something that can make such a great impact in the community." **(Continued on Page 2)**

Volunteers Make an Impact

(Continued from Page 1)



After the kits were assembled, they were distributed at the United Way Fox Cities Emerging Leaders' Valentine's Family Festival. The festival is a fun event in the middle of the long Wisconsin winter focused on serving lower-income families. Liesl

Britzke, an Emerging Leader who helped to coordinate the festival, said, "I was so excited to give each child books and a healthy meal kit. How cool is that, to provide a meal for families that otherwise may not have one." This year, more than 600 children attended the event with their families and received the kits.

Volunteers who helped pack the kits included retired and senior volunteers, corporate volunteers, families, young professionals, university students and leadership teams. Because of the new partnership with Depend®, and the wonderful efforts of the volunteers, hundreds of families in the Fox Cities have new books to read and a healthy meal to enjoy together. ■



(Above) United Way Emerging Leaders set a new record this year, with more than 600 children attending the Valentine's Family Festival for free family fun.



(Above) Teen Symposium 2015 marked the fifteenth annual youth leadership conference hosted by United Way Fox Cities and the YMCA of the Fox Cities. This year's theme focused on Theodore Roosevelt's quote, "Believe you can and you're halfway there." The conference featured multiple guest speakers, a volunteer resource fair and various leadership activities. This year's event had the largest attendance yet, with more than 350 ninth grade students from 20 different local high school groups.



Labor Council Awards Volunteer

Congratulations to Rick Grissom, who served as a United Way Board Member for six years, for receiving the Fox Valley Area Labor Council Volunteer of the Year Award. Rick was awarded for his outstanding involvement in his local union and as a community volunteer. Thank you for your service to our community! ■

2014 Report to the Community

At the 2014 Annual Report to the Community, nearly 350 United Way supporters gathered to review the year's accomplishments,



including a successful community campaign that exceeded the \$8.1 million goal. The agenda included the announcement of Wes Urch Volunteer Service Award recipients, Mary Jo Buchberger and Liesl Britzke, in recognition of their outstanding service to United Way Fox Cities. Diana Buechel, United Way Fox Cities Board Chair also made the announcement that United Way

Fox Cities has awarded grants totaling \$540,000 that address a range of community issues, from supporting early childhood education to reducing isolation for those with dementia.

In addition, new board members Mike Carini, USW Local 2-482, Kimberly-Clark; Pam Henson, Post Crescent Media; Dave Morton, Morton Long Term Care; and Tom Riordan, Neenah Enterprises, were elected. Board members Tim Bergstrom, Bergstrom Automotive, and Mark Westphal, Fox Valley Area Labor Council were elected for a one-year special appointment and Shannon Full, Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Jim Kotek, Menasha Corporation; and Melanie Miller, Bemis Co. were elected for a second three-year term. ■

THE WEIGHT OF THE FOX VALLEY

Calumet, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties



You Can Be a Part of The Weight of the Fox Valley!

Here are three ways to get involved today:

1. Join the Family Dinner Club

Join the Weight of the Fox Valley's Family Dinner Club! Send a photo of your family eating dinner with the name, age and occupation of the people pictured and a description of the dinner being served. Your submission may win a friendly professional opinion from a Community Dietitian and be featured on The Weight of the Fox Valley Facebook Page. Please email your entries to Weight of the Fox Valley Manager, Keren Rosenberg at keren.rosenberg@unitedwayfoxcities.org.

2. Be our Friend of the Month

Become the Weight of the Fox Valley Friend of the Month by sharing your health-related success story! Share your story with details of the healthy habits you have incorporated into your life and your photo. We may choose your story to win "Friend of the Month" on The Weight of the Fox Valley Facebook page and inspire others to start their own healthy habits. Please email your entries to Weight of the Fox Valley Manager, Keren Rosenberg at keren.rosenberg@unitedwayfoxcities.org.

3. Take the Pledge

If you would like to join a community of people who have committed to starting one new, healthy habit, you too can "Take the Pledge," take a selfie, then share your pledge on the Weight of the Fox Valley Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/WeightoftheFoxValley.



**United Way Fox Cities**

1455 Midway Road
Menasha, WI 54952

By the Numbers

Do you ever wonder how your donation to United Way Fox Cities is making a difference in our community? Here are a few ways that, together in 2014, we built a stronger, more caring community for everyone.

**822
people**

were provided a safe refuge from homelessness or abuse.

**5,772 adults
and children**

received mental health counseling and support services. 91% had an appointment within 5 days.

Nearly 1,000 students

who were unable to obtain mental health services elsewhere in the community have been served by United Way's PATH since 2008. The school-based therapy program is in all 10 Fox Cities' school districts.

**14,852
adults and
children**

received medical and dental care for free or a reduced price.

**400,000
diapers**

were distributed by the Fox Cities Diaper Bank to keep babies clean, healthy and dry.

**32,489
rides**

were provided for people to get to work, medical appointments and school.

**1,613
women
and
children**

dealing with domestic violence were given hope and healing.