

UW opens \$1.75M push

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The United Way of Daviess County held its campaign kickoff Tuesday morning at Smothers Park, and campaign chairwoman Minga Trogdlen said the fundraiser will "make an impact in the lives of people living here."

This year's goal is to raise \$1.75 million. Last year, the local campaign raised \$1,539,125, and it funded 23 programs.

"One gift helps so many," Trogdlen said. "It's local people helping local people. ... As a community, it takes all of us working together. ... When someone gives through United Way, that gift touches two out of three people right here in Daviess County."

The campaign launch was highlighted by a balloon release by about 50 United Way supporters.

"It's hard to explain how much of an impact United Way has on our community," Trogdlen said. "We appreciate your contribution to the United Way."

United Way officials said that giving \$50 per paycheck can provide 11 weeks of preschool to a child in a low-income family; \$25 per paycheck can provide four to six wheelchair ramps for people with disabilities; \$10 per paycheck can provide 100 warm meals to hungry families; and \$3 per paycheck can provide back-to-school supplies for eight children.

Agencies that receive United Way funds help strengthen families, build independence and allow students to achieve academically. The agencies also

serve senior citizens, people with disabilities, meet basic needs, promote healthy living, help prevent family violence and eliminate hunger.

"With one gift, people have the opportunity right now to provide clothes for people who don't have them, to provide shelter for people who don't have a place to lay their head, to provide food for people who are going hungry and provide services for people who desperately need them and want to help themselves," said David Ross, president and CEO of the United Way of Daviess County.

"We are elated with the attitude and excitement that we see in this year's campaign across our entire system. Every county is saying that it can do better than the previous year."

Ross said that with the economy picking up, "there is more certainty" and companies along with their employees are apt to contribute more.

"The United Way is unique in that we have so many people who can give a few dollars out of every paycheck, and when we piece those together with others who are doing the same thing, it can make a big difference in people's lives," he said.

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