

February
2009

You Answered the Call

Thank you Thunder Bay & Regional Communities. Together we raised **\$2,212,514.**

Our community has always, in the best of times and in the worst of times, rallied to support worthy causes. It certainly seemed that these past months were the worst of times for people around the world. And still, people found a way to help.

Many people in our region are dealing with the aftershock of a very

tumultuous 2008. Because of your generosity they will be able to find help for their physical and emotional needs. These are the results we promise.

Thank you to the many caring and generous citizens of Thunder Bay & surrounding communities. Your financial support added to the commitment of hundreds and hundreds of volunteers will continue to support the provision of critical services here and in regional communities.

There are so many people who volunteer to help during the campaign year. We are successful because of the hard work of the many volunteers and sponsors who help and donate in many different ways. Thanks to all of you for your ongoing generosity.

Your contribution will make a difference in the lives of people in our community.

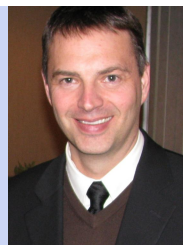
Please see our website for a listing of our Funded Agencies .

Employee Awards Dinner & Auction

Our Employee Awards Dinner will be held Thursday, February 19th, 2009 at the Travelodge Hotel Airline. This evening is our way of recognizing the tremendous efforts of those involved in Employee Campaigns. In addition to the Awards Ceremony a Silent Auction is held as the first fundraiser of the year. To add to the fun we are also featuring a Live Auction portion. Thank you to everyone who is part of an Employee Campaign and to the many volunteers and donors who make this exciting evening possible!



Welcome Murray Walberg 2009 Campaign Chair



The United Way is proud to introduce Murray Walberg (Regional Vice President RBC Financial Group) as Chair of the 2009 Campaign.

Murray is an active member of the United Way Board of Directors and a long time supporter of our organization.

Welcome Murray and best wishes for a successful Campaign Year!

UNITED WAY OF THUNDER BAY

United in Results

2009 Sun Life GenNext Dodgeball Tournament—Start Stretching



2008 1st Place Team—WINMAR

The GenNext group is hard at work preparing for the 2nd Sun Life GenNext Dodgeball Tournament scheduled to take place Saturday March 28th at the Sports Dome. Last year was a *big hit* and the group is set for a bigger and better 2009. With room for 20 teams, more great prizes, a live band and an "after-party" it's sure to be the don't miss event of the year! Get your team registered by March 13th . We are also looking for volunteers & Referees for this action -packed fundraiser! Contact Joanne Wolnik at 626-1764 for details.

Pennies From Heaven

It's time again to start saving your coppers!!

Watch for Penny Cartons to be delivered this March.

Collection dates are April 20-30.



Sponsored Employees

The Sponsored Employee Program is a unique program in which businesses in Thunder Bay loan one or more of their employees to work with United Way staff and volunteers on a variety of fundraising activities.

This program has proven to be a valuable professional development experience for the participants and their sponsors. Throughout their assignment a Sponsored Employee (SE) will gain confidence & acquire a host of new skills while helping the United Way achieve its goal of building our community.

SEs learn about the challenges that face many people in our community and how they can contribute to the cause through teamwork and dedication. SEs network with key community leaders! Your participation in the program is an excellent way to enhance your corporate image as a community builder and as a caring organization. Your employee & your organization can take pride in the fact that you have helped make our community a better place to live and do business!

To learn more go to <http://unitedway-tbay.on.ca/sponsor.htm>

Royal LePage/Lannon Realty
Women's United Run
Saturday, May 9th

GREAT BILLBOARD RESCUE

Join us for the exciting 2009 Great Billboard Rescue, which has raised over \$1,000,000 for the United Way of Thunder Bay over the past sixteen years! We are issuing a challenge for you to board the scissor-lift on **Thursday, May 14th** and spend twenty minutes calling all of your friends and associates for pledges. We are looking for teams of four, but can accommodate smaller or larger teams or individuals.

Come out! Have fun! **When you give, we get results!**

Call Joanne Wolnik to register your team, 626-1764



A Responsible Allocations Process

Allocating funds is a serious task. Community volunteers review funding proposals and financial statements for each applicant. In addition, the volunteer teams make an on-site visit to review and clarify each application. During the process they talk to board members, volunteers, staff and clients of the agency. They are then well prepared to move on to the difficult decision making process.

Requests for funding are always greater than the amount available. Because of this limitation, our Allocations Review Teams spend many hours reviewing applications and agencies. Five separate teams prepare initial recommendations based on community need and capacity to achieve the best results. Finally the teams meet to reach consensus on how to invest the United Way Community Fund.

Recruited from all walks of life, the volunteers learn first hand about the challenges people face on a daily basis. Their job is more than number crunching. Through the interview process they become passionate about the programs and services that they believe will best serve our citizens. Their final decisions are not made without debate and angst, and we are grateful that they take the time to care as much as they do. Our community is better for it.

"The Allocations Process works. Individuals who are independent of the Agencies and Programs they review make informed decisions on how to best allocate the funds they have been entrusted with. Thank you to our volunteers for your time, your energy and your insight. Your efforts ensure our recommendations are free of bias, are based on sound economic footing and are meeting the needs of our Community to the best of our United ability."

Tom Boyle

Allocations Committee Chairman

Volunteer Opportunities—More Than Meets the Eye

Are you interested in becoming involved with the United Way but aren't sure how? Are you a former ECC looking for a new role? Have you recently retired and want to do more in the community? If so consider becoming a volunteer! There are many volunteering opportunities within the United Way. Whether you are interested in helping out at a Special Event, running an Employee Campaign at your workplace or donating your time and skills to one of our committees, we are sure to have a position of interest for you. At United Way we have many opportunities for people from all ages and all walks of life to volunteers & get involved. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering please call Joanne Wolnik at 626-1764 for more information.