



United Way of Lake County Progress Report

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April 2010

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Dear Dianne,

Welcome to our first quarterly *Progress Report*, where you will learn how United Way of Lake County is working to identify and find solutions to key community needs.

Your comments are important to us. Please send all correspondence to [Dianne McDermott](#), relationship manager and editor.



Dianne McDermott

[RSVP TODAY](#) for our Annual Meeting, which will take place April 15 at LaMalfa. Tickets are \$22.50 each. For more information, contact [Jessica Petersen](#).

LAKE COUNTY'S NEW DRUG OF CHOICE

It's frightening. The new drug teens are turning to is one of the drugs we feared most in the late 70s and early 80s. It provides a quick high and rapid addiction. A teen shooting up can feel the rush in seven to eight seconds.



Judge Trebets

On the street, we know this drug as smack, black tar, junk or brown sugar. So what's the drug that's getting all the attention these days? HEROIN! And since you can smoke it, inject it or inhale it, heroin is an easy high.

That's where Judge John Trebets and the Mentor Municipal Court drug court initiative come in. Judge Trebets is forging the way to provide offenders treatment through [Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers](#).

"Let's help the people who need help," said Judge Trebets at United Way of Lake County's February board meeting. Sixty-eight percent of those who received help were not arrested for a second offense in a two-year time frame. That's good news for everyone. "The more intense the outpatient treatment, the quicker candidates in the program get help, and the quicker their recovery," said Trebets.

"The solution to this problem is economically advantageous. It costs the community seven times the amount to incarcerate a person rather than to rehabilitate them. We're not being soft

Save The Date

For more information on the following events, contact [Jessica Petersen](#), Marketing and Communications Director

[Annual Meeting](#)
April 15

[Day of Caring](#)
June 16

Contact Our Staff

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Special Events

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on crime, we are being smart about crime."

After a thorough discussion, United Way of Lake County's board of directors passed a motion to provide \$11,000 in seed money to this community initiative through Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers. The ADAMHS (Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services) board is matching that \$11,000 for a total of \$22,000 to fund this worthwhile initiative.

Program eligibility

A candidate must be:

- an adult with drug abuse or addiction problems;
- stable enough to understand and comply with program requirements; and
- not pose an unacceptable risk to program staff or the community.

In addition, candidates must be receptive to treatment; appropriate for care available in the community; eligible for community control (probation); and seek and maintain any substance abuse counseling, treatment and aftercare.

APRIL IS VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MONTH

**Thank You to All our Dedicated Volunteers
We Couldn't Do it Without You!**

Evaluation & Investment Committees

By Jean Argo, Community Impact
Director

Community volunteers are in full swing evaluating core-funded programs at our partner agencies with the goal to determine which will receive funding in fiscal year 2011. Their job is to ensure that your dollars are invested wisely.



Basic Needs Committee

Dedicated volunteers from all walks of life (business, retirees, people who simply want to make a difference) sit on these five committees from March through May:

1. Basic Needs
2. Senior Citizens
3. Children and Families
4. Health Counseling
5. Health Services

Their mission: to review and propose to United Way's board

of directors which programs should receive funding. Each program must:

- meet high community needs;
- be administered effectively and efficiently; and
- deliver positive, measurable results - community impact.

Thank you never feels like enough, but the words come from our hearts. If you are interested in serving on a future committee, please contact [Jean Argo](#). See our next newsletter for results of the committees' work.

HELP FEED LAKE COUNTY/HARVEST FOR HUNGER

By David Munson
Vice President - Resource Development

No one wants to be a statistic. Especially when it comes to not having enough to eat or needing to call someone for food. But luckily, 2-1-1 is there when people need help.



Now's your chance to make a difference. You can coordinate a Feed Lake County food drive at your workplace or simply donate food at either of two locations:

- United Way: 9285 Progress Parkway in Mentor
- Our drop-off location: 464 Blackbrook Rd. in Painesville

Some of the non-perishable food items needed in more than 40 Lake County food pantries include:

- Peanut butter & jelly
- Tuna fish/canned meat
- Pasta and sauce
- Canned soup/stews/meals
- Canned vegetables/fruit
- Breakfast foods

Anyone dropping off food at the center will receive a chance to win some great raffle prizes. The center will be open from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. on April 9 and April 16 to drop off food items.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: On April 22, 23 and 24, we need volunteers in four-hour shifts to weigh, sort and prepare food for distribution at the Blackbrook location.

Please contact [David Munson](#) to volunteer.

Rather write a check? Please make checks payable to United Way of Lake County and write "Feed Lake County" in the memo section. Send your check to 9285 Progress Parkway, Mentor, OH 44060.

SENIOR SOLUTIONS PANEL FUNDS DRUG REPOSITORY

Lake County Drug Assistance Program

United Way's senior solutions panel recently allocated \$4,000 to the Lake County Drug Repository program. Operated by the Lake County Health District, this program recycles unused, sealed prescription drugs that have been donated from health professionals such as hospitals, nursing homes and pharmacies. These medicines then go to people in need.

Direct dollars are used for transporting the drugs to the warehouse and the salary for one paid staff member. Other funding comes from the Health Department Foundation. Lake County is the first in Northeast Ohio to offer this program.

YOUTH UNITED WAY LAKE COUNTY

By Gayle Sikula, Administration

Sunday, May 23, all high school students in grades 9-12 are invited to work with other teens across the county to learn about their community and actually have a say in how to distribute the dollars they helped to raise.



In 2008 and 2009, students allocated a total of \$19,000 to various nonprofit programs in Lake County. The experience is rewarding for the students and much needed in the community.

In addition to fulfilling volunteer requirements for graduation, the students learn:

- how to be a part of a larger community;
- problem-solving skills and compromise through a democratic process;
- to be good citizens; and
- teamwork.

Contact [Gayle Sikula](#) to learn more and sign up for this half-day program.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Need Help? Get Help ... Call 2-1-1**Arthritis Foundation, Northeast Ohio Chapter**

Need: Speakers bureau volunteers to man booth at health fairs.

Contact: [Kelly Donahue](#) at 216.831.7000, ext 119

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Ohio

Need: Males over age 18 to become a big brother to one of 26 boys ranging from ages six to 15 who are waiting to be matched with a friend and positive role model. Volunteer commitment is one year.

Contact: [Marie Bodak](#) or [Lynne Strah](#) at 440.352.2526

Catholic Charities Community Services Food Force

Need: Assist with food distribution on May 17, 18, 19. Includes making food boxes, stocking shelves (must be able to lift 30-pound boxes) and light paperwork.

Contact: [Madeline Gustin](#), or call the food pantry at 440.953.8095

Lake County Council on Aging

Need: Volunteers for the following ongoing programs: Meals on Wheels, Friendly Visitor, Grocery Shopper, Courier. Optional mileage reimbursement available.

Contact: [Traci Hissam](#) at 440.205.8111, ext 228

Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers

Need: General office, including confirming appointment calls for counselors, filing and paperwork. Flexible hours between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Contact: [Kathy Horvath](#) at 440.205.2663

Lake County YMCA

Need: Various needs. [Visit their Web site](#) for specific opportunities.

Project Hope for the Homeless

Need: Ongoing opportunities, especially between 5:30 a.m. and 6:45 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. Welcome, greet and spend quality time, providing informal support in a safe, structured environment to homeless families, women and men. Assist with distribution of in-kind goods and meals, and oversee shelter routine with support of a professional social worker, an assistant and another trained volunteer. Training provided.

Contact: [Melissa Knight](#) at 440.354.6417, ext 106

THIS ISSUE'S CONTRIBUTORS

Special thanks to this issue's United Way of Lake County staff contributors:



Jean Argo



David Munson



Gayle Sikula

United Way of Lake County's Mission

To improve people's lives by mobilizing the community to identify key community needs and collaborate with solutions that have measurable results and make a positive impact.

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