



## Helping Us All with United Way

Brian & Cathy Humphrey

It's hard to remember when I started supporting the United Way, since it has been a part of my life for so long. Why? Because everyone needs a hand every now and then and United Way supports a wide variety of human needs. The United Way model of a single umbrella organization conducting one large annual fund raising campaign to support a great number of small community based agencies is a very efficient technique. Being a thrifty engineer, I love efficient processes!

During my participation with United Way I have increased my role to get closer to the hands on action of helping others. I progressed from simply filling out my annual pledge card for a painless payroll deduction, to being a volunteer for Day of Caring and Rebuilding Together, to being a member of the Lubrizol campaign committee, to becoming President of the Board of Directors of a local United Way funded agency (New Directions for Living). Along the way I have found ever greater personal satisfaction, met lots of great people, and made many new friends. I always feel like I am receiving as much or more than I am giving when supporting United Way activities.

It's even become a family affair with my wife Cathy chairing the United Way campaign at her employer, Lakeland Community College, a couple years ago and continuing as a committee member! While working on the campaign, she realized how many agencies had touched the lives of our family and friends over the years. My kids have also observed and learned about sharing our good fortune with others by volunteering some of their talents supporting United Way and social service agencies. We often used the people and events we observed to start discussions about life, values, and even government policies. Exposing our children to activities supporting the United Way was a very positive thing in all our lives.

Not only have we personally benefited from our United Way efforts, but I feel we are improving our entire community. A common goal of most United Way agencies is to improve people's lives so they can contribute rather than take from the community. I find supporting United Way helps all of us live better, Live United!