

United Way of Southern Chautauqua County

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United Way Celebrates Campaign “Miracle”

Campaign Chairman Chris Colburn used the memorable words of sportscaster Al Michaels from the 1980 Winter Olympics US Hockey Team victory during the United Way Annual Meeting on Tuesday. Dr. Colburn asked the audience, “Do you believe in miracles?” The answer was a resounding “YES”!

Because of an anonymous special gift of over \$50,000, the 2009 United Way Campaign surpassed its \$1,330,000 goal.

“This really is a miracle,” Dr. Colburn said. “Many people worked very hard on this campaign, and then at the end it looked like we would face a disappointing conclusion. But thanks to an outstanding community effort, and help from a very generous individual, the United Way Campaign has raised \$1,350,000!”

“It is heartwarming to see these results,” Dr. Colburn added. “It has been a privilege to work with an extraordinary group of volunteers and to know that we have made a difference for thousands of people here in our community. The United Way Campaign is a reflection of how we care for each other. I want to thank everyone who generously donated time and money to this campaign.”

2009 Campaign Achievement awards went to employees at Blackstone Business Enterprises and Panama Central School. Employees at both organizations increased their giving by over 100%. A Campaign Newcomer award was presented to the employees of Chautauqua Eye Care. In addition, Dr. Colburn presented a special recognition award posthumously to Jane Elizabeth “Betty” Sheldon for her lifetime of service and giving to our community.

United Way Board President Vickye James presented a special award to Dr. Colburn, thanking him for his work on the 2009 Campaign. “We are grateful to Chris for his leadership this past year. Contributions to the United Way Campaign are so important, because they allow United Way to work throughout the year providing service to children, families, and adults here in our community,” she said.

The 2009 United Way Community Partner Award was given to two United Way agencies and a community program in recognition of their service in times of disaster and their partnership with the United Way’s 2-1-1 service. The American Red Cross and Chautauqua County Citizen Corps, along with the Salvation Army, received awards for their work following severe flooding last August.

United Way Board officers for 2010 are Mrs. James, President; Jon Scalise, Vice President; Peter Stark, Treasurer; and Steve Maggio, Secretary. The 2010 Campaign Chair is Tom Schmidt, Superintendent of Sherman Central School.

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