

United Way of Southern Chautauqua County

413 North Main Street, Jamestown, NY 14701

Phone: 716-483-1561 Fax: 716-483-3524

E-mail: info@uwayscc.org

www.uwayscc.org



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For information contact:

Sheila McCarthy Webster, 483-1561

United Way Celebrates Campaign Success

Chairman Tom Schmidt was all smiles Thursday while announcing a final total for the 2010 United Way Campaign - \$1,320,479! That represents 104% of the goal, which had been set at \$1,275,000.

"This is an extraordinary outcome," Mr. Schmidt said. "Many people worked very hard on this campaign, and thanks to their dedication and the generosity of this community, we have surpassed our goal."

Mr. Schmidt added. "It has been an honor to work with a wonderful group of volunteers throughout this campaign. The real winners in this are the thousands of children, families, and adults who will be served by dozens of programs throughout Southern Chautauqua County. I would like to thank everyone who donated and everyone who worked to achieve this level of success. I would also like to thank the United Way staff for their help and support throughout the campaign."

2010 Campaign Achievement awards went to Blackstone Business Enterprises, Family Service of the Chautauqua Region, Jamestown Elks Lodge #263, Jamestown Savings Bank, Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union, and Wegmans. A Special Campaign Event award was given to Richard Erickson at Chautauqua Institution, who for many years has run a chicken barbecue to benefit United Way, often in extreme weather conditions.

United Way Board President Vickye James thanked Mr. Schmidt for his work on the 2010 Campaign. "We are grateful to Tom for his leadership this past year. Contributions to the United Way Campaign are so important because they allow United Way programs to work throughout the year providing service to the people of this region," she said.

The 2010 United Way Community Partner Award was given to St. Susan's Center and the Food Bank of Western New York for their new program "Partners Fighting Hunger in Chautauqua County." In its role chairing the local Emergency Food and Shelter Program board, United Way worked with the organizations to help establish an improved delivery system for rural food pantries in Chautauqua County. The project is increasing the quantity and quality of food available for needy families in our communities.

Mrs. James was honored for her years of service as United Way Board President. Vickye is a past chair of the United Way Council for Community Building, and led consolidation discussions with the United Way of Northern Chautauqua County for over two years. Those discussions ended in 2010, with a decision that consolidation was not in the best interest of United Way at this time. She will remain on the Board as Past President.

United Way Board officers for 2011 are Jonathan Scalise, President; Jennifer Harkness, Vice President; Peter Stark, Treasurer; and Steve Maggio, Secretary. New Board members are Joelle Conti-Washer, Steve Deyo, Tim Grace, Chris Tarbrake, Dave Walter, and Dave Wilkinson. The 2011 Campaign Co-Chairs are Lorraine Diggs of WCA Hospital and Tim Grace of Chautauqua Eye Care.

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