

# LIVE UNITED NEWSLETTER

**CHANGE BEGINS WITH YOU**

\$2.5 MILLION

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.  
OTTAWAUNITEDWAY.ORG

## DAY OF CARING 2016

1 DAY 665 VOLUNTEERS 4,655 Hours \$106,878 OF LABOR SUPPORT



Left: GHSP employees helped clear brush and winterize the community garden at Love, Inc. Tri-Cities.

Right: Davenport University employees volunteered in the garden at The Commons of Evergreen in Holland.

### THANK YOU

#### 2016-2017 CAMPAIGN SPONSORS

**PINNACLE**

**PLATINUM**

**GOLD**

**SILVER**

On Thursday, September 15, Greater Ottawa County United Way hosted its 16th annual Day of Caring in Ottawa County. **665 volunteers** worked together in teams to help local nonprofit organizations with 50 projects. Projects included: removing invasive species and trash from parks, yard work and landscaping, painting, sorting and cleaning, filing documents and more.

Director of Volunteerism **Shannon LaHaie** said, “This day is a huge benefit to our nonprofit organizations, and it’s a lot of fun for our volunteers.”

Around noon, volunteers gathered at the Christian Reformed Conference Grounds to enjoy a volunteer appreciation lunch, donated by A.D. Bos Vending Services and Tyson Foods, and prepared and served by A.D. Bos.

During lunch, United Way kicked off its 2016-17 Community Campaign. **Campaign Chairs P.J. and Kristen Thompson** announced a campaign goal of **\$2.5 million**. P.J. said, “Kristen and I are looking forward to being a part of United Way’s

campaign this year. United Way creates opportunities for people and organizations in Ottawa County to work together to help everyone in our community reach their full potential. By investing in programs and initiatives that change lives, everyone can make a difference.”

Kristen Thompson added, “P.J. and I are so encouraged by our community’s generosity. We invite the members of our community to join us in our support of United Way. You can give, advocate or volunteer to make a positive difference right in your own back yard. When you invest in United Way, you are changing lives and changing communities.”



2016-17 Campaign Chairs  
Kristen & P.J. Thompson

# VOLUNTEER

# DAY OF CARING



Smile Grand Haven helped remove invasive species at Pigeon Creek Park.



Thank you to A.D. Bos Vending Services for providing the food (along with Tyson Foods) and serving our volunteers.

## YOU CAN RAKE A DIFFERENCE

**United Way is searching for volunteers to rake yards during its annual Rake-a-Difference event on Friday, November 11 and Saturday, November 12 from 8:00am to noon.** In honor of Veteran's Day, United Way sponsors and coordinates this initiative, which brings volunteers together to help local people and neighborhoods that need help with fall clean up due to physical or financial limitations.

If you or someone you know needs help with raking—or if you wish to rake as an individual or a team, please contact Shannon LaHaie, United Way's Director of Volunteerism. You can reach her by calling 616.396.7811 x206 or sending an email to [slahaie@ottawaunitedway.org](mailto:slahaie@ottawaunitedway.org).

**The deadline to sign up is Friday, October 28.** Volunteers will receive their assignments prior to November 11. Thank you for “raking a difference” in your community!

# ADVOCATE

## END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

You're invited to attend a special **Veteran's Pledge Event** aimed at ending veteran homelessness. Learn about our plan to end veteran homelessness in Ottawa County and sign the pledge.



**Friday, November 4**  
**2:45pm-4:00pm**  
**Fillmore Complex**  
12220 Fillmore St.  
West Olive, MI 49460

Sign up to attend here: <http://bit.ly/VeteranHomeless>

## STUDENTS LIVE UNITED *UPDATE*

**Students LIVE UNITED** would like to welcome **Spring Lake High School** and **Jenison High School** to the program!

Other schools that offer the Students LIVE UNITED program include: Alendale High School, Black River Public School, Coopersville High School, Grand Haven High School, Holland Christian High School, West Ottawa High School, and Zeeland (East and West) High School.

Would you like to learn more about Students LIVE UNITED? Contact Program Coordinator Allison Duer at 616.368.2967 or [aduer@ottawaunited-way.org](mailto:aduer@ottawaunited-way.org), or visit [www.OttawaUnitedWay.org/students-live-united](http://www.OttawaUnitedWay.org/students-live-united).



Students from Coopersville High School help out at the 150th anniversary of Ottawa County 'Poor Farm' as part of United Way's Students LIVE UNITED program.

# GIVE

## CAMPAIGN KICKOFF

On Thursday, September 15, Greater Ottawa County United Way kicked off the 2016-17 annual community campaign. Campaign Chairs P.J. and Kristen Thompson announced a goal of **\$2.5 million**. Keep track of our progress toward the campaign goal by visiting [www.ottawaunitedway.org/campaign-goal](http://www.ottawaunitedway.org/campaign-goal) throughout the campaign season.



Leadership donors posed for photos with the picturesque scenery by the Grand Ravines Lodge. From left to right: South Lighthouse Leadership Circle Chairs Nicole DeNooyer and Chris Taylor, Cathy and Steven Curtis and Lyndsie Post and Dave Musselman.

## LIGHTHOUSE LEADERSHIP CIRCLE UPDATE

On Monday, September 19, **Lighthouse Leadership Circle** donors gathered at the Ottawa County Parks' **Grand Ravines Lodge** in Jenison. Guests mingled, enjoyed drinks, appetizers and music, and heard the exciting announcement that there is now a county-wide leadership match for anyone who gives \$500 or more for the first time, or any increase over a leadership giver's gift from last year.

Fourteen community leaders have joined forces and pooled resources to create the **Ottawa County Leadership Challenge**. This challenge grant will match dollar for dollar all new leadership gifts (\$500 and up) to United Way's 2016-17 community campaign, up to a total of **\$80,000**. Donors who gave at the leadership level last year can also leverage their gift by increasing it – and the amount of the increase will be matched. In order to earn the \$80,000 challenge, at least \$80,000 in new and increased leadership level gifts must be raised by March 31, 2017, when the current community campaign wraps up.

To learn more about leadership giving or the challenge match, contact Louann Werksma at 616.610.2661 or [lwerksma@ottawaunitedway.org](mailto:lwerksma@ottawaunitedway.org), or visit [www.OttawaUnitedWay.org/lighthouse-leadership-circle](http://www.OttawaUnitedWay.org/lighthouse-leadership-circle).

**HOW TO GIVE** Donate or pledge by using the reply envelope included in this newsletter, visit [www.OttawaUnitedWay.org](http://www.OttawaUnitedWay.org) and click the "Donate" button, call 616.396.7811 to donate via credit card, text OTTAWA to 91999 or mail a donation to Greater Ottawa County United Way, PO Box 1349, Holland, MI 49422-1349.

## WIN 2 TICKETS TO PARADISE

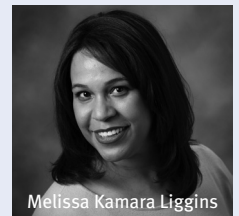


When you give a new donation of \$1 per week (\$52) or increase your giving by \$52, you will be entered into a drawing to win two tickets to paradise, which includes a 5-night stay in an ocean view king or double room for two at the all-inclusive Hyatt Ziva Puerto Vallarta and round-trip coach class airfare for two to Puerto Vallarta.

*For more details, visit:*  
[www.ottawaunitedway.org/prize-drawing](http://www.ottawaunitedway.org/prize-drawing)

## NEW BOARD MEMBER WELCOMED

Greater Ottawa County United Way would like to announce the addition of **Melissa Kamara Liggins** to its Board of Directors. Melissa is the director of public and community relations for Spectrum Health, a not-for-profit, integrated health system based in Grand Rapids.



Melissa has a heart for community and is proud of the work Spectrum Health is doing to foster health in local communities.

**GIVE. ADVOCATE.  
VOLUNTEER.  
LIVE UNITED**



Greater Ottawa County  
United Way



**PO Box 1349  
Holland, MI 49422-1349**

**2016-17 Board of Directors**

Sarah Lilly, Chair  
Lyndsie Post, Vice Chair  
Kirk Koeman, Secretary  
Keith Van Beek, Treasurer  
Randy Kortering, At-Large  
Anna Bednarek  
Deborah Erickson  
Brent Hadden  
Kevin Hook  
Tamara Jalving  
Jeanene Kallio  
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## PRESIDENT'S PEN

**BECAUSE OF YOU.** United Way's vision is that all people have the opportunity to achieve their full potential. Because of you, tens of thousands of people all across Ottawa County are helped move toward this goal. **When you LIVE UNITED you help people change their lives for the better, and for the long term.**

**Because of you...** Barbara, homeless and penniless and going through a divorce, was able to secure better employment, find an apartment and start moving forward successfully. Through the United Way funding at The People's Center she is now giving back to the community that supported her by volunteering.

**Because of you...** Ricardo and Tom were paired up through the Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lakeshore mentoring program. Ricardo has since graduated from high school, is doing well, and is still in contact with Tom.

**Because of you...** United Way helped 46 families receive the EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit) refunds totaling \$90,850 that can now go toward every day expenses. Thousands more saved a total of \$269,907 this year through United Way's Familywize prescription program.

These are just a few examples of how, because of YOU, lives are impacted everyday in our community. So let's continue to **DO GOOD, FIGHT EVIL and LIVE UNITED!**



Board President Sarah Lilly and Patrick Moran, displaying his plaque for 10 years of service as United Way President.

Patrick Moran, United Way President