

LIVE UNITED NEWSLETTER

CHANGE BEGINS WITH YOU

\$2.5 MILLION

60%

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.
OTTAWAUNITEDWAY.ORG



GHSP of Grand Haven hosted a food and coat drive, which benefitted the Holland and Muskegon Rescue Missions



President Patrick Moran places the 60% mark on our thermometer in Holland's Centennial Park

THANK YOU

2015-2016 CAMPAIGN SPONSORS

PINNACLE

PLATINUM

GOLD

SILVER

Barber Ford PADNOS Varnum Law
Itex Trade Exchange/ West MI Barter Co.

United Way is happy to announce that we have reached the **60% mark** of our **\$2.5 million goal** for the annual community campaign. The campaign runs through the end of March, and the funds raised are used to improve **education, financial stability, health** and meet the **basic needs** of Ottawa County residents.

United Way President **Patrick Moran** said, "Every year, more than 10,000 people partner with United Way to advance the common good in Ottawa County. When you volunteer or donate, you can be a powerful part of the force for good right in your own community."

Businesses showing an increase in their United Way workplace campaign so far are: **A. D. Bos Vending Services, Woodward, The City of Grand Haven, West Michigan Community Bank, Dr. Pepper Snapple, West Michigan Fleet Parts, Semco, Purple Cow Creamery, Holland Charter**



GIVE

Township, ODL, Lake Michigan Credit Union, Herrick District Library and Grand Haven Public Schools. Campaign Chair John Gork commented, "Our corporate partners and their employees truly care about their community and want to engage in meaningful ways. For some, that may mean volunteering an hour of their time each month and for others it's giving \$1 or more out of each paycheck to the annual campaign."

Campaign Chair Martha Gork added, "Despite the success of reaching the 60% mark, **we still need the community's help if we are going reach our goal.** We invite all the people of Ottawa County to join us and to give, advocate or volunteer. This is how we invest in our community, making it an even better place to live, work and play."

show kids the love

During the month of February, Show Kids the Love!
Learn more at:
OttawaUnitedWay.org/Help-Kids

GIVE *CONT...*



WIN 2 TICKETS TO PARADISE

Thanks to our generous sponsors, United Way is excited to offer a prize drawing for “Two Tickets to Paradise” again this year. The winner will enjoy a 5-night stay for two at the Hyatt Ziva Puerto Vallarta plus airfare. To be entered into the drawing, donors may give \$52 for the first time or increase their gift by \$52 from last year.

Learn more and enter the drawing at:
www.ottawaunitedway.org/prize-drawing

LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE UPDATE

It's not too late to double your impact!

Make a new leadership pledge or donation of \$500 or more before March 24, and **your donation will be doubled** by the Lighthouse Leadership Challenge.



We thank the generous, anonymous donors who have committed \$60,000 in challenge grants to the 2015-16 campaign. Now it's up to the rest of us to make sure we can claim these dollars to invest in our community's health, education, and financial stability. Be a beacon of light for all our neighbors in need:

- » Give or pledge to the employee campaign where you work
- » Mail your donation to PO Box 1349, Holland, MI 49422-1349
- » Give online at www.ottawaunitedway.org

Thank you to all the lighthouse leadership circle donors who have already pledged. Your light shines bright in our community!

ADVOCATE

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROCESS UPDATE

This winter, 70 Community Investment (CI) volunteers on 11 panels will review Year 1 funding applications submitted by 58 human service programs from 44 local nonprofit organizations. These community partner programs improve education, health, financial stability and meet the basic needs of the people in Ottawa County.

The CI volunteers will also tour the program sites, meet to discuss their findings, and make funding recommendations to the United Way Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will make its final funding decisions at the April board meeting.

To learn more, or to get involved, contact Director of Community Impact **Liz DeLaLuz** at ldelaluz@ottawaunitedway.org or (616) 396-7811 x205

HOUSING MATTERS

SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 17-23, 2016

The **Lakeshore Housing Alliance (LHA)** is a program run by United Way that aims to prevent and end homelessness in our community. From April 17-23, add \$1 or more to your bill at participating restaurants (look for more info soon!) to support the LHA's homelessness prevention initiatives. Your donation will help create local communities where everyone can have a place to call home.

BUILD A MORE VIBRANT COMMUNITY.

DONATE ALL OR PART OF YOUR STATE INCOME TAX TO THE UNITED WAY FUND

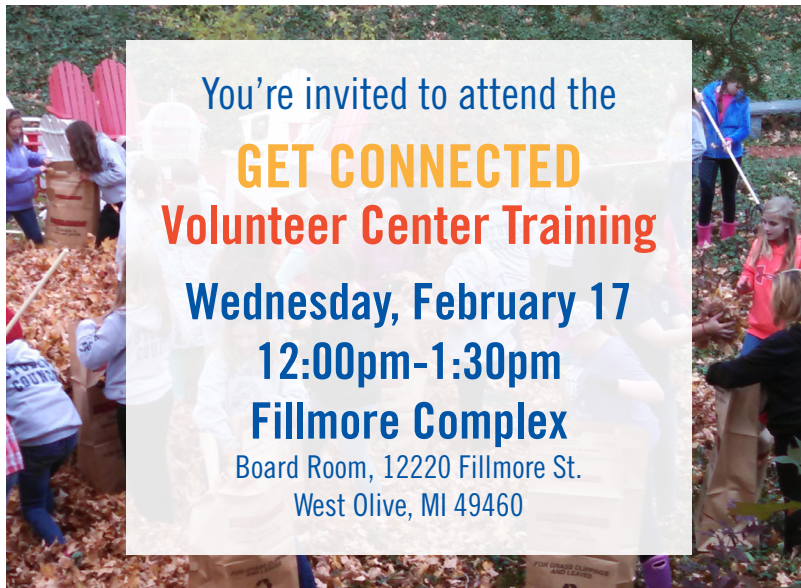
Did you know you could make a donation when filing your taxes? When you check off the “United Way Fund” on your Michigan State Income Tax, your local United Way receives those dollars to help families in your community. Check out the “Voluntary Contributions Schedule” Form 4642 and check off the “United Way Fund” this tax season! Thank you for your support!

VOLUNTEER

To explore local volunteer opportunities, visit OttawaUnitedWay.org and click on 'Volunteer Now.'



OTTAWA COUNTY VOLUNTEER CENTER



You're invited to attend the
GET CONNECTED
Volunteer Center Training
Wednesday, February 17
12:00pm-1:30pm
Fillmore Complex
Board Room, 12220 Fillmore St.
West Olive, MI 49460

This training is presented by United Way and hosted by the Lakeshore Nonprofit Alliance and Galaxy Digital. Ottawa County nonprofits are invited to learn about the new online volunteer center, how it can benefit your organization, and receive help signing up.

A free lunch is provided. Please bring a laptop.

If you would like to attend, contact Shannon Morton by February 10 at smorton@ottawaunitedway.org.

Join us on **Wednesday, February 17 from 12:00pm-1:30pm** for a training opportunity for local nonprofit organizations to learn how to utilize the online Ottawa County Volunteer Center to recruit and engage volunteers. **If you would like to attend, please contact Shannon Morton by Wednesday, February 10 at (616) 396-7811 x206 or smorton@ottawaunitedway.org.**

IN MEMORIAM - LYNNE SHERWOOD

United Way staff and board members were all saddened to learn of the unexpected passing of Lynne Sherwood, Chairman of the Board of JSJ Corp., on January 10. A lifelong community builder, Lynne was a creative and engaged supporter of United Way throughout her lifetime, as well as our 2003 G.W. Haworth Strength of the Community Award recipient. Our condolences to all our friends at JSJ companies as well as her family and friends throughout West Michigan and the world. Her absence in our community will be deeply and acutely felt. Rest in peace, dear friend.



SAVE THE DATE: CELEBRATION

Thursday, March 24
Trillium Events

17246 Van Wagoner Rd., Spring Lake

5:30pm - Social Hour with cash bar
6:30pm - Dinner and Program begin



STUDENTS LIVE UNITED



Thank you to the **Students LIVE UNITED** group from **Coopersville High School** who braved the cold weather to collect food outside the Coopersville Family Fare on November 21. They gathered more than \$600 worth of food, which was donated to Pack-it-Up, and went toward feeding local children in need.

CAREER EXPLORATION UNIVERSITY



United Way and North Ottawa Community Health System are partnering on a pilot program for Grand Haven High School students titled, "**Career Exploration University.**" The program will take place on April 18 and 20, and will offer students an opportunity to explore careers in healthcare.

Students who wish to apply for the program must be students at Grand Haven High School and members of United Way's Students LIVE UNITED program. **Apply by Monday, February 22 at OttawaUnitedWay.org/career-exploration-university.**

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



Greater Ottawa County
United Way



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

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PRESIDENT'S PEN

The **New Year** brings many changes. Among the many changes that happen after the busy holiday season are all those New Year's resolutions. A few of mine got me thinking about what an amazing place we live in as I drew some parallels between my resolutions and my daily journey in our community.

My first resolution was to **SAY THANK YOU** more often - to deliberately say 'Thank You' to several people every day. I have so many reasons to say thank you daily! Each day, so many people go out of their way to support our community through Greater Ottawa County United Way by **giving, advocating** and **volunteering** that I don't think my first resolution will be difficult to achieve. In fact, there aren't enough hours in the day to thank every person that helps us build a strong community.

My second resolution was to be **more intentional with how I spend my free time**. Every one of the tens of thousands of interactions we have at United Way with donors, volunteers and advocates is the result of an **everyday hero** in our community doing just that - being intentional with their free time to **create a better life** for someone else!

Realizing the power we have to create communities where everyone has the chance to reach their full human potential is so exciting! It makes me eager for this new year of programs, initiatives and collaboratives that create those opportunities. I can't wait to see what we will accomplish as we focus and maximize our collective power to advance the common good in our community.

THANK YOU for all you do, and have a Happy New Year!

 Patrick Moran, *United Way President*



Patrick Moran presents at West Coast Leadership's Health & Human Services Day