

United Way meets \$8.1 million goal



[Cheryl Anderson](#), Post-Crescent Media 12:20 p.m. CST February 4, 2015



(Photo: Post-Crescent Media)

GRAND CHUTE – United Way Fox Cities has met its 2014 campaign goal of \$8.1 million, the highest amount the nonprofit has raised, officials announced Tuesday.

United Way, which raised \$7.7 million in its 2013 campaign, was confident about upping the ante for 2014, said Peter Kelly, president and CEO.

"As we started this year, we took a look at what the needs are in the community and felt that with the improving economic condition as well as the need that was out there ... that \$8.1 million would be an achievable goal," Kelly said.

The 2014 campaign was spearheaded by co-chairs Tim Bergstrom, president and chief operating officer of Bergstrom Automotive, and Tom Riordan, president and CEO of Neenah Enterprises. Supporters of United Way celebrated the accomplishment Tuesday at Fox Cities Stadium.

United Way-supported programs will have an impact on 1 in 3 people in the Fox Cities in 2015, but the campaign isn't just about money, officials said, noting that individual and corporate donors also volunteer in the community.

Miller Electric Manufacturing Co. in Appleton was recognized Tuesday, along with the Neenah-based Galloway Company, for the new "sustained excellence" award that recognizes companies for their longtime support of United Way.

Miller Electric had more than 90 percent participation from its 1,500 employees.

"We don't do those things for rewards," said Mike Weller, group president, who will co-chair the next campaign with Riordan. "We do the sustained effort over the years because we know what a difference United Way makes in the community in which we live and work.

"Over 100,000 people get helped by the United Way agencies that they support. Some of those people could be our people, could be our families, could be our neighbors, it could be relatives that need a helping hand. Thank goodness there are helping hands available and that's what makes the quality of life (here) so significant."

In 1993, Miller Electric donated \$60,000 to the campaign. The gift in 2014 was more than \$1 million, in conjunction with Miller's parent company, Illinois Tool Works.

"Once we started understanding more (about United Way) by educating ourselves, employees got much more fired up about it," Weller said.

Creating change in the community is the mission of United Way Fox Cities. Among the programs it supports is PATH for Students, which provides mental health therapy in 10 Fox Cities' school districts. More than 830 students have received counseling — with positive outcomes — since the program began in 2008. It also is garnering

United Way awards

In addition to the goal announcement, individuals and teams who displayed exemplary leadership in their company's United Way campaign were recognized.

They include:

- Employee Campaign Awards, which go to organizations for their efforts in running a successful campaign, were presented to Faith Technologies (large company with 500 or more employees), Miron Construction Co. (medium company 151-499 employees) and Bridgewood/Ground Round (small company with less than 150 employees).
- The Leadership/Emerging Leaders winner was Secura Insurance.
- Sustained Excellence awards went to Galloway Company and Miller Electric Manufacturing Co.
- The Kimberly-Clark Corporate Challenge Award, which recognizes the company that saw the greatest increase in employee participation, was presented to Miron Construction.
- The Employee Giving Award for the company that saw the greatest percentage increase in employee giving was given to Pierce Manufacturing.
- The winner of the United Way Car Sweepstakes was Samantha Zelten, who received a 2014 Fiat 500L donated by Bergstrom Automotive.

interest from school districts throughout the country.

"What really sets this community apart is the caring nature of everybody here," Kelly said. "I'm one of many, many nonprofit executives that feel fortunate to live in a community that cares so much about its own people. We're very fortunate."

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