

United Way Improves Lives in Monroe County

By Mark Moore, CEO of Bloomington Hospital and 2005-06 United Way Campaign Chair, and Debbie Sibbitt, Director of Hoosiers for Higher Education at Indiana University and 2005-06 United Way Vanguard Chair

Those of us fortunate enough to live in Bloomington know what an amazing community this is. Year-round cultural events, a variety of festivals, a broad range of restaurants and entertainment venues, as well as Big Ten athletics, all enhance the quality of life we enjoy.

Most of us who live here have our basic needs met. As the holidays approach and homes fill with bountiful meals and gifts, it can be difficult to imagine the pain and daily struggles faced by many in our community.

By supporting United Way of Monroe County, you can help those who need it the most. United Way partners with a coordinated network of 25 certified member agencies to address basic human needs, assist in crisis situations, and promote personal health and development.

The things that you want for your own life and family are the things that United Way seeks for everyone in the community through these seven goals:

- **Everyone should have sufficient food.** United Way helps fund agencies that have provided over 226,000 prepared meals to low-income residents during the past year, with more than 60 percent of the meals going to children and elderly.
- **Everyone should have a safe place to live.** United Way helps fund agencies that have helped more than 700 families with safe, accessible housing through rent and utilities assistance, legal advocacy, transitional housing, home modifications, and residential programs.
- **Everyone should have access to basic health care.** Nearly 30,000 of our neighbors have difficulty paying for or obtaining basic health care. With your contributions, United Way helps fund community health programs and clinics.
- **People in crisis should have access to emergency services.** United Way helps fund agencies that have provided emergency services such as shelter, rent, and utility assistance, groceries, clothing, and disaster relief to more than 14,000 low-income residents in the past year.
- **Children and youth should have the opportunity to grow and prosper.** Nearly 23,000 of our neighbors have trouble finding affordable after-school programs for their children. United Way helps fund productive activities for youth such as clubs, classes, and organized sports.

● **Everyone should have the skills and support to enter and stay in the workforce.** United Way helps fund agencies that last year assisted more than 700 local residents with job skills, employment support, and finding and keeping employment.

● **Seniors should be supported in their efforts to be independent.** United Way helps fund agencies that support more than 3,500 elderly residents in their efforts to be independent with services such as home modification and repairs, employment support, food delivery, health and fitness activities, and social events.

The recent hurricanes remind us of the importance of a strong community that is prepared to care for its citizens in times of individual or widespread crises. Thanks to your generous donations last year, United Way agencies responded to 32 families who needed emergency assistance because of fires, flooding and storms; delivered 41,929 complete meals and 6,288 bags of groceries to homebound elders; provided 4,847 medical office visits to those in need; and helped more than 4,000 local youth prosper and grow through after-school programs, day care, mentoring, and other organized activities. With your help again this year, United Way can provide these important services to people in our community.

Every dollar you donate really does make a difference.

\$1 a week can provide:

- Home repair for 3 elders in preparation for winter
- Breakfast for one child for an entire summer
- Clothing and shoes for a child whose home is lost to a fire

\$5 a week can provide:

- Groceries for 25 low-income families
- 114 medical prescriptions
- Four months of therapy for an at-risk family

\$20 a week can provide:

- 100 hours of on-the-job training and coaching
- Certification for 52 individuals in adult CPR and first aid
- Rent vouchers for 20 at-risk families

Together, we can make Monroe County an even better place to live. Your support allows United Way to address the most urgent human service priorities in our community and to help people make positive, long-term improvements in their lives.

To learn more about United Way and to download a pledge card, visit www.monroeunitedway.org.

On behalf of United Way, we sincerely thank you for your help improving lives in Monroe County.