



UNITED WAY OF MONROE COUNTY RAISES \$1,414,183

United Way of Monroe County celebrated the conclusion of its 2006-2007 community campaign on Wednesday, March 21. The campaign raised \$1,414,183.

Barry Lessow, United Way Executive Director, commended those who helped with the campaign. "This year we emphasized the impact United Way has on the community. Along with our partner agencies, we work every day to ensure that we are meeting today's critical human service needs and making the investments now that will reduce those needs in the future. We appreciate the work of our campaign chairs, their cabinet, and the workplace campaign coordinators. While we had hoped to reach our ambitious 50th anniversary goal of \$1.5 million, we are grateful the community responded and brought us so close. We welcomed many new donors this year whose generosity will be felt throughout the year. Across the board, our individual and corporate donors recognize that every dollar counts and we value their strong and continuing support."

Campaign Co-Chairs Mark Moore, President and CEO of Bloomington Hospital, and Kevin Osborne, Business Development Officer at the IU Credit Union announced the campaign total, and remarked that, "We appreciate the generosity of everyone who helped us reach this total. Individuals, organizations, and businesses came together, and the entire community will benefit. The impact of this generosity will allow United Way and its 27 partner agencies to continue addressing the most pressing human service issues in our community."

Indiana University Campaign Co-Chairs Lauren Robel and Gwyn Richards announced that IU raised a record \$652,646, exceeding last year's contributions from IU employees and annuitants by over 2%.

Debbie Sibbitt, Director of Hoosiers for Higher Education chaired the Vanguard Leadership Giving program, which recognizes gifts of at least \$1,000. This year, there were 368 leadership gifts totaling \$628,070, which reflects an 11% increase in leadership giving.

Several workplaces received awards for their outstanding contributions to the campaign. Indiana University, Bloomington Hospital, and General Electric received the Pillar Award for each raising \$50,000. A complete list of award winners is available at www.monroeunitedway.org.

Valynda Laird was presented with the Mary Alice Gray Memorial Award for Extraordinary Service to United Way. Laird served two terms as president of the United Way Board and led the campaign at Bloomington Hospital for the past four years. In that time, hospital employees increased their contributions by more than double. She is the Administrative Director for Critical Care and Medical/Surgical Services at Bloomington Hospital.

United Way of Monroe County is a nonprofit organization that improves people's lives by addressing critical needs today and working to reduce those needs tomorrow. Through its Community Care Fund, it allocates resources to 27 member agencies that address the most pressing human service needs in Monroe County. United Way can be reached at 812-334-8370 or www.monroeunitedway.org.