

United Way Community Services  
June 21, 2004

## **United Way Community Services Certifies 25 Agencies**

United Way Community Services today announced that 25 local organizations were granted certification for membership. "All former member agencies successfully passed the rigorous certification standards," said Anna Weigand, board member and co-chair of the Community Services committee. "We also added two new certified agencies, Indiana Legal Services and People and Animal Learning Services, giving United Way more opportunity to impact social service issues in Monroe County," she continued.

All agencies were reviewed by the Community Services committee, which included UWCS board members, agency representatives, and community volunteers. Agencies were asked to provide documentation that they met thorough standards in the areas of Governance and Oversight, Effectiveness, Finances, and Fundraising Practices. Under this new certification process, agencies may retain their status for up to three years.

"We began moving to a more structured membership process to strengthen our organization, increase donor confidence, and to ensure that our member agencies are effective and efficient," said Ed Gross, United Way Board President. "These standards were carefully designed to assist both charitable organizations and the United Way in strengthening the social services so vital to the needs of Monroe County."

"Having a clear process provides assurance that agencies that are members of United Way Community Services are sound and effective at meeting important, identified community needs," said Vicki Pierce, Executive Director of Community Kitchen. "This is a good way to provide more accountability to local donors, share best practices among agencies and maximize the community impact of UWCS donations."

Organizations that are new members of United Way are Indiana Legal Services and People and Animal Learning Services (PALS). Indiana Legal Services provides urgently-needed civil legal assistance to low income households and to seniors in Monroe County. PALS provides therapeutic horseback riding to children and adults with physical, learning, cognitive or emotional disabilities.

The remaining newly certified agencies have been member agencies for some time: Abilities Unlimited, American Red Cross, Amethyst House, Area 10 Agency on Aging, Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Indiana, Boys and Girls Club, Catholic Social Services, Community Health Services, Community Kitchen, Family Service Association/Mental Health Alliance, Girls Incorporated, Girl Scouts of Tulip Trace Council, Hoosier Hills Food Bank, MCCSC School Assistance Fund, Middle Way House, Monroe County Council for Older Americans, Monroe County United Ministries, Planned Parenthood of Greater Indiana, Rhino's Youth Center, RBB School Assistance Fund, Salvation Army, and Stone Belt ARC.

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