

June 28, 2005

United Way Community Services Re-Certifies 8 Agencies

United Way Community Services today announced that eight local organizations were re-certified for UWCS membership. "These member agencies successfully passed the rigorous certification standards," said Steve Ruiz of Allstate Insurance. Ruiz is a board member and chair of the United Way Allocations/Certification Committee.

Each year one-third of the current member agencies are reviewed by the committee, which includes 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. The remaining member agencies will be eligible for re-certification in 2006 and 2007.

The re-certified agencies are Boys and Girls Club, Community Kitchen, Family Service Association, Girl Scouts of Tulip Trace Council, Hoosier Hills Food Bank, Mental Health Alliance, Monroe County United Ministries, and PALS.

"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 United Way Board President Valynda Laird of Bloomington Hospital. "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. Each of these member agencies helps UWCS in its mission to improve people's lives."

"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."

United Way Community Services improves people's lives by mobilizing the caring power of our community. It invests resources in 25 member agencies that impact the most pressing human service needs in Monroe County. United Way can be reached at 812-334-8370 or www.monroeunitedway.org.