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Our opinion

Use envelope in today's Herald-Times to help people through the United Way

The Herald-Times

October 6, 2012

We recently wrote of the need to support United Way. The reason is that the people served by the 24 member agencies and other nonprofits that benefit from United Way's annual fund drive can really use the help.

We're going to remind you today to help, because this may very well be the easiest day of all for an H-T reader to lend a hand.

The organization's three E's — Education, Earnings and Essentials — break down the strategy to help lead people to self-sufficiency.

On education, donations to United Way help improve early childhood literacy and keep older students in school. United Way is a leader of the Monroe Smart Start Birth-to-Five Coalition and provide free Born Learning materials to parents. It co-coordinates the High School Plus Coalition, which is focused on reducing the number of dropouts. It also funds member agencies that support young people in a number of ways, which can only help their academic success.

On earnings, donations to United Way help it participate in a number of initiatives that support financial stability for local residents through helping people file tax returns (and save money); helping people stay in their homes; and providing job counseling.

The essentials include helping people pay for prescription medications or put enough food on the table. Many member agencies are dedicated to providing essentials for all who need help.

Every dollar makes a difference. For instance, a dollar a week could provide breakfast for a child for the entire summer; $5 a week could provide an at-risk child a backpack filled with food each weekend.

All 24 of the member agencies help people. That's what United Way is all about.

So why is this the easiest day to help United Way with its mission? Because an envelope is being delivered with today's paper, and you mail it back with a donation to provide whatever help you can.

Please take a minute to do so.

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