

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

UNITED WAY “GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE” CAMPAIGN NEARS \$1MM MARK

Concord Schools, JCISD, Consumers Energy highlight early results

JACKSON, Michigan, (October 3, 2007). The United Way of Jackson County announced today that the community has raised nearly \$1 million dollars (\$952,000) during the first few weeks of the 2007 “Give Where You Live” campaign. The announcement was made at their campaign volunteer breakfast held this morning at the United Way Center, 536 North Jackson.

“These are hard times for many of us in our community,” said Joe Lathrop, Campaign Chair of the United Way of Jackson County and Vice-President of Flagstar Bank. “But it is exactly during times like this that we really need to help each other, and I think the community is responding with heart and concern.”

The early results are led by strong performances by several organizations. For example, Concord School employees increased their campaign contributions by over 75% from last year, raising over \$3,500. “Our teachers and staff see the results of our difficult economy every day in the classroom,” said Jay Bada, Superintendent of Concord Schools and Education Division Chair for United Way. “They felt the need and stepped up big time this year, and we’re really proud of them.”

The Jackson County Intermediate School District also has turned in excellent results, increasing their contributions by over 50% from last year, raising over \$30,000. “We took the extra effort to make sure every one of our employees heard about United Way

and the wonderful programs they support in the community”, said Steve Sukta, Coordinator of Safe and Drug Free Schools and Health at the ISD. “When you see the impact your contribution can make, and how it can help the families you serve every day, you just want to do everything you possibly can to help out.”

Consumers Energy leads all campaigns, having raised over \$550,000 so far. James Liggins, Attorney at Consumers Energy, is this year’s United Way Campaign Director for the company’s Jackson area employees. “We’re over 90% toward our goal and still counting”, said Liggins. “I think our employees understand the need out there in the community, and they believe it makes sense to ‘Give Where You Live’ – especially this year.”

The United Way “Give Where You Live” campaign supports Jackson County residents through a combination of over 49 different programs and community collaborations. More than 30 local human service organizations partner with the United Way to target six prioritized needs in Jackson County:

- Growing families safe and sound,
- Overcoming hardships and forging pathways to self-sufficiency,
- Fostering health & well-being physically, mentally and emotionally,
- Supporting success in school and preparedness for life,
- Promoting a safer community, and
- Building a coordinated service delivery system.

For further information on United Way programs and services call the Jackson County United Way office at 784-0511, or visit their website, www.uwjackson.org. Contributions can also be made online at the website by clicking on the “Donate Online Now” button on the United Way of Jackson County homepage.