



## United Way of Central Missouri

### Fact Sheet

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The United Way of Central Missouri is a local, accountable, volunteer-driven organization that serves people in need by leading and coordinating efforts to help one another.

#### **Organization History**

The organization started as a part-time committee of the Jefferson City Chamber of Commerce in 1925. Given the economic problems of the late 1920's, the organization split from the Chamber and became known as the Jefferson City Community Chest. Nationally, the Community Chest had its beginnings in Denver, Colorado during the late 1880's when a number of businessmen expressed the difficulty in deciding which charities and agencies to support. Community Chest groups around the nation solved that problem by holding single campaigns for groups of local agencies – not much different from how the United Way operates its fund-raising today.

#### **What is the United Way?**

- ◆ The United Way of Central Missouri is Mid-Missouri's largest and most extensive service organization.
- ◆ Volunteers and professional staff assist our neighbors in 4 counties through a broad range of human care services.
- ◆ A total of 25 member agencies and programs offer a variety of services to children and adults; the disabled; senior citizens; low-income families; victims of abuse, disease or disaster; and others in need.

#### **Who runs the United Way?**

- ◆ A small staff of four people is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the local United Way.
- ◆ Experienced volunteers--knowledgeable of our community's special needs—monitor the services performed by member agencies.
- ◆ A 24-member Board of Directors sets policy and makes decisions, ensuring that local contributions are put to the best possible use.

#### **Who benefits from United Way services?**

- ◆ Over 88,000 Mid-Missouri residents benefit from partner agencies programs and services in Cole, Moniteau, Miller, Osage, and southern Callaway counties.
- ◆ Businesses, our government, schools, and all employee groups benefit from the more than 25 health and human service programs offered by United Way member agencies. These services are available to anyone who lives or works in Mid-Missouri.

### **Why is the United Way so efficient and effective?**

- ◆ The United Way of Central Missouri helps support 25 member agencies and programs; each agency is a tax exempt, not-for-profit organization that is audited on an annual basis.
- ◆ Through the umbrella support of the United Way, these agencies share a pool of organizational resources which lets them concentrate on the unique and special services they offer.
- ◆ The United Way of Central Missouri is local, accountable, and responsive to the community.

### **United Way programs meet real human needs.**

- ◆ Problems you hear or read about each day are being solved through United Way member agencies.
- ◆ The agencies work with people suffering from drug and alcohol abuse, and child and spousal abuse. They provide services for the homebound elderly and handicapped. They provide shelter and food for the homeless. They provide intervention, prevention and mentoring programs to develop productive, healthy youth in our community.

### **United Way is fully accountable.**

- ◆ United Way provides responsibility and accountability to its supporters.
- ◆ Volunteers review each agency allocation and approve them before a fund-raising goal is set.
- ◆ United Way studies community needs and evaluates agency performance.

### **United Way is local.**

- ◆ Your donations stay at home in our community—helping local people, investing in lives and creating jobs in our area.
- ◆ You can visit the member agencies and see your dollars at work helping people.
- ◆ United Way agencies provide services to a 4 county area, and support programs which serve this multi-county region.
- ◆ Agencies have local boards, officers or facilities and local payrolls. They depend on United Way to survive—and to provide services to over 85,000 people annually.

### **United Way is efficient.**

- ◆ By using volunteers to raise funds and review community needs, the United Way saves money. More of your donation goes directly to the people in need, not to overhead costs or administration.
- ◆ Only through United Way can you help so many needed services and know your support is based on close budget review and necessary allocations.

### **Why give to the United Way?**

- ◆ Other than the United Way, where can one donation impact the needs of so many in the central Missouri community?
- ◆ Government budget cuts have reduced many human service programs and non-profit agencies supported by individual giving have had to grow to meet the need.
- ◆ By giving through the United Way, you help ensure that United Way's 25 agencies and programs can continue offering vital services every day of the year.