Local United Way funding target to increase 8%

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

Funding Targets Basic Needs â€“ Food, Shelter & Safety

BEND, Ore. â€“ The United Way of Deschutes County announced an 8% increase in funding commitments for 2007-08. The $1,084,000 packageâ€”the largest ever for Deschutes Countyâ€”includes more than $700,000 in allocations and grants for the United Wayâ€™s 23 partner agencies and $384,000 in contributions earmarked by donors.

In response to the relentless increase in human service needs in Deschutes County, the United Wayâ€™s 35-member Allocations Committee awarded the greatest increases to programs that provide food, housing; and services to victims of child abuse and their families.

NeighborImpact will receive $91,242 for emergency services and the regional foodbank program. The KIDS Center, a child advocacy agency that provides assessment, treatment and prevention programs that address child abuse and neglect, will receive a total of $78,454.

â€œThe United Way of Deschutes County may â€˜giveâ€™ the funds to agencies,â€• stated Allocations Committee Chairman Mike Stanley of Selco Credit Union. â€œYet in reality, the agencies â€˜earnâ€™ their allocations by delivering programs that meet important unmet needs and change lives in the community.â€•

Last year, NeighborImpact distributed 1,246,000 pounds of foodâ€”a 15% increaseâ€”to local food pantries that helped feed more than 22,000 people. The agency also provided emergency assistance to 2,828 households with rental vouchers or utility assistance.

The KIDS Center provided medical evaluations for alleged abuse to 301 Deschutes County children last yearâ€”an increase of 19%â€”and provided therapy for 179. The United Way funding should help to lessen the time span between referral and first appointment, which occasionally took as long as three weeks during 2006â€”well above the normal 10-day period.

About the United Way of Deschutes County

The United Way of Deschutes County was established in 1953 and remains committed to supporting the community through the allocation of dollars devoted to local agencies and essential service programs. With the help of corporate, employee and individual donations, the United Way impacts one in four lives through programs that focus on our most urgent human social service needs: helping kids get a great start in life, keeping youth on track for success, meeting basic needs of individuals and families, and keeping children and families safe from violence and abuse. For more information about The United Way of Deschutes County call (541) 389-6507 or visit www.deschutesunitedway.org.

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