



Unity Foundation of La Porte County

COMMUNITY Matters

A Power for Good — Forever — For La Porte County

Unity Raises \$198,000 Over 24 Hours!

May 6 was a huge day of celebration as Unity Foundation of La Porte County and its partners successfully joined in a national fundraising event, bringing in \$198,415 to support dozens of local nonprofit causes.

Give Local America marked the centennial anniversary of community foundations, and 82 of them participated across the nation. Unity invited donors to Give Local La Porte County - raising significant funds for causes right in our own backyard.

In just 24 hours, more than 600 donations were made online and by check to support organizations and

projects benefiting the arts, youth, education, the environment, human services, etc.



“Give Local America was a big, bold opportunity for our community. We encouraged everyone to be a philanthropist by getting behind this effort, because large and small gifts combine for a really big impact,”

said Unity President Maggi Spartz.

The event also helped local nonprofits share their important messages, raising awareness and reaching potential donors through social media like Facebook and Twitter.



Unity Vice President Sandy Gleim, center, is joined by nonprofit partners in a special cheer to commemorate the success of Give Local La Porte County.

Unity Foundation Grants Prizes For Top Fundraisers

Unity Foundation and its board of directors provided special grant prizes during the Give Local event. Three organizations were pleased to split \$4,500 as the top fundraisers. They included:

- 1st place** Salvation Army - La Porte raised \$42,460 for a \$2,000 prize.
- 2nd place** ECD Global Alliance raised \$28,475 for \$1,500.
- 3rd place** Worthy Women Recovery Home captured \$28,373 to receive \$1,000.

Give Local La Porte County spurred extraordinary generosity in that a donor was moved to make a \$40,000 contribution to open a new Unity endowment fund for Salvation Army – La Porte.

“We thank our anonymous donor from the bottom of our hearts for not only their generosity but also their forward thinking,” Greg Irwin, envoy for the Salvation Army said. He added that Give Local donations “will be used to meet immediate needs and a portion will be added to this gracious endowment to help assist folks in need in La Porte for a long time to come.”

Worthy Women Recovery Home was another big winner of the day, enthusiastically reaching out to the community to encourage 123 online donations.

Eagerly watching the results tally, Executive Director D. E. “Sonshine” Troche said, “For such a time as this!” Those are the words used to describe my thoughts, when seeing that we were about to win third place in the Give Local La Porte County Day. To see over 120 people donate to the Worthy Women Recovery Home Fund, sends a clear message that people not only see the need for our program AND believe in WWRH too, but that they are also willing to do their part in making our mission a reality. To know that so many gave so much is overwhelming, and we are grateful for God’s provision, for such a time as this, when money is so hard to raise.”

Another happy winner for the event was the ECD (Erdheim Chester Disease) Global Alliance, which drew donations from several states, as well as Canada, Ireland and Belgium. The fund was started for Give Day by a local donor who wants to bring awareness of this rare multi-system disease.

In total, Give Local La Porte County donations were made from 22 states and three countries outside the United States.



From left, American Red Cross Executive Director Bobbi Petru accepts the Give Local Lunch prize from Unity President Maggi Spartz

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VISA, MasterCard accepted. Simple giving form can be found at uflc.net to set up automatic gifting. Easy to use and confidential.

We are constantly updating our mailing list, so if you have received this newsletter in error, please call or e-mail. If you’d like to add someone, please let us know.

Brochures on Wills & Bequests are available by calling the Unity office.

Give Day photos courtesy of Richard Warner.



United Way And Unity Partner For Greater Community Impact

Over the past two years, Unity Foundation and United Way of La Porte County have shared office space at 115 East 4th Street in Michigan City. Our organizations also share a common goal to benefit La Porte County, and the close proximity as neighbors has opened even more opportunities to work together.



This spring and summer, United Way began holding community visioning sessions to look toward changing the way it uses community funds. Residents are being asked to dream big - sharing aspirations for their communities, then addressing challenges and seeking priority solutions.

Unity Foundation is partnering with United Way in this important effort, and we look forward to receiving vital information that can help all funders in the county make impactful decisions.

A Community Vision session will be held on September 24 at Blue Chip to review common themes that have emerged. United Way interns are compiling data and researching best practices around the country. The ultimate goal is to seek Requests for Proposals from organizations or groups dedicated to working on identified priority impact issues.

Persons who have not been able to attend the visioning sessions are encouraged to learn more about the process and share their views through an online survey at www.unitedwaylpc.org.

Lilly Internship Program A Big Benefit For Unity

One of Lilly Endowment's many gifts to Indiana is the Community Foundation Internship Program. Three years ago Gabby Dziadkowiec joined Unity as a paid "intern" and quickly became a valued staff member focusing on technology, social media and development assistance.

Gabby has now graduated from Purdue North Central with a Bachelors of Science and a double major in marketing and management. She plans to relocate with fiancée Ethan Harbrecht in the near future.

So while we say a sad farewell and wish them the very best, the Unity staff also is pleased to welcome another Lilly intern. Myriam Resendiz is a Valparaiso High School graduate heading into her sophomore year at Valparaiso University. She is industriously pursuing a double major in International Business and German. We look forward to working with Myriam, providing diverse experiences and skill-building for a good start on her professional career.



From left, Gabby Dziadkowiec and Myriam Resendiz share the distinction of participating in the Community Foundation Internship Program.



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Life's A Beach!

Whether you enjoy summer living at the beach, snow-bird to warmer climes, or are a hardy full-time resident, Unity Foundation is open year-round to indulge your charitable passions. There are so many important needs in the community where you live, work, play and relax.

Want to leave a lasting legacy to commemorate your fond memories? Give to the June B. Kelley Garden Fund for Long Beach, or support the Washington Park Bandstand, the

Lighthouse Catwalk Maintenance fund, or the Love our Lakes project. Online giving is a snap on our website at www.uflc.net/funds/contribute-online.

Your money goes a long way through UFLC. It's also super easy to open your own donor-advised fund – to make special gifts to support the causes you care most about. Give us a call at 219-879-0327 to open yourself to the opportunities of “a power for good.”