



United Way sets 2011 campaign goal at \$2M

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By



Campaign co-chair Pam Lindsey and chairman Richard Lucas -- representing Monopoly characters Miss Monopoly and Rich Uncle Pennybags, respectively -- reveal the \$2 million goal at the 2011 United Way of Jackson & George Counties luncheon campaign at Pascagoula School District's Family Interactive Center on Friday. (BEVERLY TUSKAN/Press-Register)

PASCAGOULA, Mississippi -- Organizers of the 2011 **United Way of Jackson and George Counties** kicked off this year's campaign at the **Pascagoula School District's Family Interactive Center** on Friday.

"United We Win" is the theme for this year's campaign.

A variety of community leaders were recognized, seven grants were awarded and the campaign's chair Richard Lucas and co-chair Pam Lindsey -- dressed as Monopoly board game characters, Rich "Uncle" Penney Bag and Miss Monopoly, respectively -- unveiled the campaign's goal of \$2 million.

"We've set an ambitious goal of \$2 million. We do believe we can meet that challenge," Lucas said.

"We think it is more important than ever that United Way have a strong campaign. There's still a lot of people in Jackson and George counties that need assistance with various facets of their lives. With the economy being tough, maybe it makes it even more important."

Lindsey agrees the goal will be met.

"Even though the economy is as it is, we have seen through the Pacesetter campaign that people in Jackson County and George County are very caring people, they're giving, no matter how small amount they're giving. That's helps us to become more successful and reach our goal. I believe we will reach it," she said.



Each representative of this year's United Way's cabinet members display a card to indicate a total amount of \$509,542.50 in donations that kick starts the 2011 United Way for Jackson & George Counties Campaign. The luncheon was held at Pascagoula School District's Family Interactive Center on Friday. (BEVERLY TUSKAN/Press-Register)

Lucas recognized and thanked individual campaign cabinet members, which include Debbie Anglin, Andy Voda, Richard Schenk, J.J. Fletcher, Leah Snyder, Kelly Sessoms, Dr. John Weldon, Pat Keene and Jerry St. Pé.

Lucas then turned the program over to Dorothy Shaw, who announced the seven recipients of the Community Impact Grants.

"Each year, the United Way Board of Directors sets aside an amount of money that we give to those organizations who are not necessarily member agencies but who submit proposals for community work that we think is worthy of recognition," Shaw said.

Winners and grant amounts are Boys & Girls Clubs of Jackson County, \$10,000; Jackson County CASA, \$10,000; Citizens Against Needless Death in Youth (CANDY), \$638; Mississippi Gulf Coast Youth for Christ, \$4,500; St. Vincent de Paul, \$9,600; Mississippi Gulf Coast YMCA, \$6,600; and Samaritan Ministries, \$8,500.

Schenk, president of the United Way board, referred to Jackson and George counties as "an ambitious set of counties" and acknowledged the Pacesetters, those who start their contributions early by giving a total amount of \$509,542.50.

"I think that's a wonderful start," Schenk said.

Lindsey then presented each representative of the 10 "dedicated Pacesetter companies" with a plaque, and went on to recognized AT&T for turning in a check in the amount of \$11,573.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the 2011 campaign should contact their employer to see if they participate in the United Way or call the United Way office at 228-762-7662 to request a pledge card.

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