

Story published: 01-16-2008 • [Print Story](#) • [E-mail Story to a Friend](#)

United Way sets record, tops its \$2 million goal

By Sue Guinn Legg
Press Staff Writer
slegg@johnsoncitypress.com



The Johnson City Area United Way campaign has made history, topping \$2 million in community donations for the first time in its 77-year history.

Mark Eades, chairman of the fundraising drive, announced the campaign's success at a news conference on Tuesday.

Surrounded by several dozen young people served by the local health and human service agencies supported by the United Way, Eades thanked the community for making it possible "to help more people than ever before," a goal he repeated often during the four-month drive.

"From the beginning, this campaign has been about people. The people who campaigned and the contributors who gave, this blessing is theirs as much as the people who will receive this (\$2 million) goal," he said.

"This is a testimony to the people of the agencies that are served, the people of the Johnson City Area United Way, the campaign team, the honorary past chairs on (whose work) this goal was built, the businesses and, most of all, the people who live here in Washington County.

"It was the people and the companies that came together to bring this campaign where it is today. Our goal was \$2 million but our purpose was to help more people than ever before. That accomplished, we will be able to help more people than ever before."

Eades expressed special thanks to Mountain States Health Alliance for an 11th-hour donation of \$20,000 that lifted the campaign's total contributions to \$2,001,238.90 before the drive officially concluded Tuesday.

Proceeds from the campaign provide the annual funding for 17 area nonprofit agencies, including the local Girl Scout and Boy Scout councils, the Boys and Girls Club, Girls Inc., Coalition for Kids, Red Cross, Adult Day Services and Keystone Dental Care, all of which sent representatives to help Eades announce the campaign's successful completion.

Other agencies receiving annual support from the campaign are ARC of Washington County, Contact Ministries, Frontier Health's Adventure Program, Salvation Army, the First Tennessee Human Resource Agency's Family Support Services, the Interfaith Faith Hospitality Network for homeless families,

Washington County Schools Shoe and Clothing Fund, Johnson City Schools Shoe Fund and the United Way office that administers the campaign funds.

The service agencies' representatives, the United Way board of directors and the 2007 campaign team, which includes representatives from dozens of Washington County businesses, will celebrate the record-setting campaign at the United Way's Annual Report Meeting on Jan. 29.