

NEWSLETTER

Brant United Way
November 2008

The Great Restaurant Challenge

The Great Restaurant Challenge in support of Brant United Way will take place the week of November 24, 2008. Several restaurants will be participating in this first annual event to show their community they care! Restaurants will compete against one another to see who will raise the most money to be named the GREAT RESTAURANT of 2008. Participating restaurants will either donate a percentage of sales or encourage staff to donate to this worthwhile cause, or even better BOTH! Please show your support and keep an eye-out for these community supporters.

Facebook and Website

The Brant United Way is now on Facebook! To become a member of our group, just search Brant United Way on Facebook and add the group to your list. You will be able to view photos of events, check the status of the 2008 Campaign, receive information on our Member Agencies and add any important dates to your calendar. We would like to add all of you as our friends so please join us on the Facebook community.

The Brant United Way also launched its new website this past summer and is happy to report that it's getting a lot of positive reviews. If you haven't already visited our site, please go to www.brantunitedway.org

Important Dates

WORKPLACE CAMPAIGN END DATE

November 28, 2008

Remember to remit your envelopes to your staff partner before November 28!

BRANT UNITED WAY ACHIEVEMENT EVENT

December 11, 2008

Best Western Brant Park Inn – Mark your calendar and watch for your invitation in the mail!



JANE STEWART

2008 Campaign – Message from the Chair

As November wraps up we are getting close to the end of our campaign and closer to reaching our goal of \$1.4 Million. Although we are more than 65% to our goal, we still need your help to ensure continued funding for over 40 programs and services offered by our Member Agencies.

There are many things in our lives on a local, national and international level that are calling for our attention. However, one thing we know for sure is when there is a downturn in the economy it hurts our most vulnerable citizens the most. Our Member Agencies need us now more than ever to provide a safety network for our citizens in need.

Our Employee Campaign Coordinators (ECCs) are doing a wonderful job at organizing their workplace campaigns and engaging the support of their fellow co-workers. We are truly grateful for the support from our ECCs, as we could not have a successful Campaign without them. I ask you to continue to support them and make a donation to the Brant United Way and join us in investing in a stronger Brantford and Brant County. It is up to all of us to ensure that these essential programs remain vibrant and available for us, for our friends and for our neighbours.

Jane Stewart
2008 United Way Campaign Chair

believe

I believe in my community



Campaign Successes *How Your Donations Help*

YMCA Brantford is building strong kids and families. When a family is strong, kids do better in school and parents can better handle the challenges and stresses of modern life. The Y and its staff deeply care about the people in our community and not only are they helping families during the hard times, but they are also celebrating their successes. The following success story demonstrates how your contributions to the United Way are supporting our community.

My husband and I have a wonderful son but we've always wanted another child. We tried several avenues to no avail. A couple years ago, a fellow YMCA staff member was raising her granddaughter whom she wanted to bring to the YMCA. The little girl lived part-time with her grandmother and part-time with her biological mother who was homeless and had addiction issues.

Neither had money to send the little girl to camp or provide her with a YMCA membership, but through the YMCA subsidy program the little girl was able to participate in these activities. The granddaughter was dropped off nightly at the Y and we soon became friends. Often hungry and in the same clothes every night, we made sure that she had something to eat, participated in programs and felt safe.

Coincidentally, my husband and I just had our names placed with Children's Aid and had been waiting for news. The grandmother eventually placed her granddaughter with Children's Aid as she could no longer care for her and the girl's mother was in jail. This beautiful little girl who had been homeless as well as physically and emotionally abused was waiting for her forever home.

My husband and I recently welcomed a new addition to our family- the little girl from the Y. Her involvement at the Y protected, healed and helped her - even if only for a few hours a day. The Y helped our daughter be a kid and enjoy life even through very tough circumstances.

Workplace Campaign Highlights



Thank you to **Sure-Gro Inc.** for showing their United Way spirit at their Halloween event on October 31st, 2008. Sure-Gro Inc. will continue its employee campaign until mid-November and is planning on another successful year.



Employees from the **RBC on Lynden Road** raised \$335 for the 2008 Brant United Way Campaign through a book and pumpkin sale. The RBC employee campaign will officially kick-off later this month and is expected to be another success. Thanks to Jasmine Steinhilber, Maria Bagnoli, Sheri Melkert, Mary Atkinson and Carol Bandiera (left to right) for organizing the sale.



The inaugural employee campaign at **Reynolds Custom Machine** raised a whopping \$5,389 for the 2008 Brant United Way Campaign! Thank you to all the employees who participated in campaign, your contributions are making a positive impact on our community.



Thank you to **Gates Canada Inc.** for its support of the 2008 Brant United Way Campaign. A special thank you to Gerry Luening, Sylvia Chupka, Jill Izokaitis and Ron Fularski (left to right) for all their hard work and dedication in helping to raise \$18,142.