

# UNITED WAY AND ORGANIZED LABOR



**SINCE 1946**, the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) and United Way Worldwide (UWW) have enjoyed a cooperative working relationship through which they and state and local United Ways have provided services to members of organized labor, their families and their communities. Organized labor is also part of the decision-making process at United Way Worldwide. Currently, there are three AFL-CIO representatives serving on the United Way Worldwide U.S. Board of Trustees and one on the UWW Board of Trustees.

## UNITED WAY AND ORGANIZED LABOR WORK TOGETHER TO:

- **Train union members** to assist co-workers and their families with information about available local services and to refer them to the appropriate organizations.
- **Recruit, train and place diverse members** of organized labor on the decision-making bodies of health and human-care service organizations. This is done at the national, state and local levels.
- **Recognize labor leaders** who have rendered outstanding United Way volunteer service by annually awarding The Joseph A. Beirne Community Services Award established in memory of that remarkable labor leader. The 2012 Beirne Award recipient is Bill McCarthy, President, Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, and a member of UNITE HERE Local #17.
- **Provide a staff of more than 156 full-time state and local AFL-CIO Community Services Liaisons** who serve as links between their state federations and central labor councils and United Ways in communities across the United States. In addition, 16 local labor agencies and four state labor agencies receive direct United Way support.
- **Solicit contributions from workers**, which account for a sizable percentage of the two-thirds of the funds that United Ways raise through employees in workplace related campaigns each year. Through the Labor Letters of Endorsement Program, the president of the AFL-CIO encourages presidents of its affiliated unions, state federations and central labor councils to send letters endorsing United Way campaigns to their memberships. This program also encourages individual union members to volunteer their time and contribute their resources to United Way campaigns and to the United Way and its member agencies on a year round basis.
- **Support the National Association of Letter Carriers' (NALC) National Food Drive** held annually on the second Saturday in May. The drive stocks local community food banks, pantries and shelters with non-perishables that letter carriers collect from customers along their mail routes. The drive, which has become the world's largest one-day food drive, was started by NALC in 1991 in cooperation with the U.S. Postal Service and the AFL-CIO. United Way became a full partner in 1994.

*Contact information on reverse side.*

**AFL-CIO**  
COMMUNITY SERVICES



*AFL-CIO Community Services and United Way Partnership*

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