



**United Way of Washington County-East
COMMUNITY INVESTMENT DETERMINATIONS 2010**

United Way of Washington County-East has a unique vantage point on the needs in our community. Community needs are complex, and don't come one at time...

- Those who are in need of shelter may also need counseling or access to health care.
- When a family needs emergency shelter, they also likely need food, clothes, and support to get back on track.
- Those who need mental health services may also need help with credit counseling or
- When an elder is isolated, it may take transportation, meals, and support services to help them stay connected to their community.
- For a troubled teen, help for themselves, and for their family is usually needed.
- A family with a job loss may need emergency financial assistance, food assistance, and help finding health insurance.

No one program or agency can do this alone, that's why our United Way Community Investment process is so important.

Here are all the details on the Community Investment process:

Who:

United Way values the involvement of community members in every decision, and especially in how to invest local United Way dollars in our community. In April 2010, forty community volunteers and four volunteer panel chairs met to determine funding priorities for this next round of agency funding. Panel chairs represent diverse sections of our community and are as follows:

- Kevin Corbid, Vice President Community Investment, Washington County
- Dave Schmiechen, President-elect, Andersen Corporation
- David Osten, board member, 3M
- Jim Nelson, board member, Cub Foods

What:

Each panel chair leads a team of volunteers to review funding requests and in these four United Way focus areas:

- Promote Thriving Children and Youth
- Provide Basic Needs and Financial Stability
- Improve Health and Independence
- Support Self-Sufficiency and Connect People to Services

These four focus areas represent the building blocks of a better life for each person, and are all essential for a strong community.

How:

Panel Volunteers dedicate significant time and effort into making funding recommendations. Each Community Investment volunteer:

- Attends meetings and becomes very familiar with the agencies requesting funding.
- Receives detailed information and training on overall community needs by community experts and United Way leadership.
- Carefully reviews a set of program funding requests from partner agencies including the program outcomes, the agency's finances and how services are delivered.
- Visits specific programs to gather additional information, asks questions, and brings the information back to their panel.
- Participates in a panel allocation night when volunteers bring their perceptions and ideas and discuss the merits of each funding application
- Discuss and deliberate with other panel members to reach consensus on how to allocate United Way funds.
- Identify gaps in service that do not appear to be adequately addressed by the program funding requests reviewed.
- Identify priority programs and make recommendations on how to adjust allocations if more or less funds are available
- Look for and address apparent duplication of service.
- ***IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF ALL UNITED WAY FUNDING DECISIONS.***

Why: Through the Community Investment process, our United Way is able to allocate funds to the most efficient and effective, and crucial programs and services in our community. We treat all donations entrusted to us with great consideration, to ensure that together, we can give each person the opportunity to build a better life, meet growing needs, and keep our community strong.



***That's what it means to Live United.
Because it is OUR community and OUR United Way.***

We welcome any community member to volunteer as community representative for this important process. Contact your United Way at info@uwwce.org or 651-439-3838 if you are interested or would like more information.