



For Immediate Release
Jan 29, 2008

**United Way of Perth County goes Over the Top
for the 8th consecutive year.**

United Way of Perth County announces a record breaking \$800,067. With an additional \$26,400 raised for other United Ways.

The total represents 101% of the \$792,007 goal the organization had set at the outset of the campaign and a 3.55% increase over last year's achievement.

The results were announced last night in front of an enthusiastic crowd of over 215 volunteers and donors at the campaign's celebration dinner at the River Garden Inn. For the eighth year in a row the United Way of Perth County has surpassed goal and set a new achievement record. Awards were presented to dozens of corporations, employee groups and individuals who gave generously and willingly to support their community through the United Way.

"We are absolutely thrilled with the results of this year's campaign", says Helga Barenberg, Chair of the Board. "We knew going into this year's campaign that there would be many challenges to be faced; however, we were again blessed this year to have had wonderful Campaign Co-Chairs, Division Chairs, Cabinet volunteers and hundreds of dedicated volunteers. Everyone associated with the Campaign should feel very proud of what they have achieved in support of the people of our County."

"The Leadership Challenge Grant made a tremendous difference to this year's campaign. The fact that the Leadership Challenge generated over thirty thousand in new campaign dollars speaks much to the generous leadership of the Co-operators and to the generosity of people who responded to the matching incentive. Without these new sources, there is no way the Campaign would have been successful", adds Barenberg.

"We felt positive about the campaign from the start. It started on a positive note and kept building from the Kick-off in September. We are truly amazed at the spirit and generosity of the wonderful people of Perth County", said 2007 campaign co-chairs Beverley & Peter Maranger. "In a year when many of our citizens were facing uncertainty, they still found it in their hearts to give locally and support their neighbours. This is the 'spirit of community' that makes Perth County such a great place to live."

"United Way is driven by community volunteers", says Ellen Balmain, United Way Executive Director, "I cannot say enough about the wonderful job done by our Campaign Cabinet led by Peter and Beverley Maranger. They were truly amazing."

However, all of this would not be possible without the dedication and hard work of countless people leading employee campaigns and the generosity of thousands of individual donors who genuinely care about their community.”

With the fundraising completed, United Way volunteers will begin the process of investing the money in the community. “Over the next few weeks our Program Review & Allocations team will review all of the funding applications to ensure that we address real and pressing needs in our community,” says Balmain. “That way we make sure that the money helps the people who need it the most.”

For more information about this release, contact
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