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**United Way of  
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# Press Release

## **United Way of Otter Tail County Kicks Off Campaign '07-'08 with Dine Out Day**

**Fergus Falls, MN; September 10, 2007: Mark your calendars for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Dine Out Day for United Way – Friday – September 14, 2007.** Along with Dine Out Day and the help of Pat Shol, United Way of Otter Tail County will kick off it's annual campaign on Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am at Shol's eatery, The Viking Café. "We thought it would be a great place to kick-start our campaign this year – amongst our friends and community members." says Interim Director Mary Phillipe.

This is the second year that Pat Shol has coordinated Dine Out Day for United Way. A portion of the day's proceeds from participating restaurants go towards the United Way Of Otter Tail County campaign. Shol states "it's just a great way to show your support – and it's something we all do in a day You can take your kids out for breakfast, your co-worker out for lunch and your significant other out for dinner.....it's an opportunity for everyone to come together to create change in our community." Participating restaurants include: Applebee's, Barringer's Coffee House, Big Chief, Don Pablos, Dairy Queen, Dairyland/Coffeeland, her's, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Pizza Ranch, Taco John's and the Viking Café.

"Last year, United Way of Otter Tail County partner agencies requested \$298,700....**more** than UWOTC had to give," stated Campaign Assistant Teresa Dahlstrom. "This year we would like to be able to address all of the community needs by meeting the requested amount of applying partner agencies to provide quality programs and services to the communities that we live in." This means raising the goal to \$360,000. Phillipe adds "at least one out of every three Otter Tail County residents have used or will use one of our partner programs. That will impact over 19,500 people living in our county. "Most people are unaware that UWOTC has touched them in some way – so, during

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presentations we invite our audience to ask themselves the following questions: Have you ever given blood? Received blood? Do you have or know of a child in a home daycare, Girl Scouts or Boy Scouts? Do you receive, or know of someone receiving meals at home? Have you or someone you love ever been the victim of a crime? Does your child receive books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then yes, you have been touched by United Way of Otter Tail County. It's fun to see all of the eyes open wide!"

The 2007-2008 campaign theme is "We Change Lives". Not only does United Way change lives, but every donor in the county is changing lives when they give to United Way. "It all goes back to that sense of belonging to a community and helping to create that difference that we would all like to see for not only our families, but our friends, our co-workers, the stranger on the street that has no money for food. We can make change happen, together." Dahlstrom states.

The Leadership portion of the campaign has already kicked off and thanks to these generous donors, United Way of Otter Tail County is off to a good start with 10% of the \$360,000 goal met. For questions on donating, volunteer opportunities or how to request a speaker for your business or service group, please call the United Way office at 736.5147 or email at [uwotc@prtcl.com](mailto:uwotc@prtcl.com)

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