

United Way Campaign Flying High

Together, Winnipeggers are flying high! Tom Bryk, United Way of Winnipeg's 2005 Campaign Chair, announced today at the first public reporting session that Winnipeggers have contributed \$7.3 million or 44% of the organization's most ambitious community goal ever at \$16.6 million.

"When we kicked off the 2005 Campaign I said we had high expectations, setting our goal at \$16.6 million. But we have the best reason in the world to aim high, and that's making Winnipeg a better place for all of us to live," said Bryk. "The support and results to date tell me that Winnipeggers share our high expectations for our city."



Ginny Witkowski, Director of FUNtastic Party & Special Event Planning

musicians Wendy Cameron, Michel Dedieu, Ron Siwicki and Kevin Swan. "United" was chosen in a public voting contest on the United Way website as the 2005 Campaign theme song because it best reflects United Way's belief that when We all participate, We all benefit.

The Report Session also included a presentation by Ginny Witkowski, Director of FUNtastic Party & Special Event Planning, who began her successful business with the assistance of SEED Winnipeg (Supporting Employment and Economic Development) which is funded by United Way. United Way funds SEED Winnipeg because the organization is a key component by which United Way enables people to move from dependence to independence by becoming financially self-supporting.

About 150 campaign volunteers, agency representatives and workplace employees joined Mr. Bryk to hear the progress of this year's campaign. Ace Burpee, radio personality at HOT 103, hosted the luncheon at the Delta Hotel.

At the event, Mr. Burpee announced the winner of the United in Song competition, co-writers Garry Koenig and Garth Johnson. The duo performed their winning song, "United," with fellow



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Support for the campaign is strong in all sectors of the community: business, labour, government, media and the general public. That support is evidenced by the flurry of activity happening all across the city. Employees are busy with workplace campaigns, speakers and events, while United Way's mail campaign is also underway to ensure that retirees and people who work from home all have an opportunity to participate in strengthening our city.

United Way invests in strengthening our city so that it is filled with self-sufficient people, vibrant, safe neighbourhoods and successful children and youth. United Way partners with leadership organizations from all sectors of the community to address issues that Winnipeggers have said are most important poverty, stressed families, children, youth and neighbourhoods.

"We all need to do our part and keep up the positive momentum," said Bryk. "We need to challenge our co-workers, our family, our neighbours and ourselves to reach for bigger, loftier goals and set high expectations to make this city all that it can be a place we're proud to call home and where our dreams for ourselves, our families and our neighbours can come true ... Because We Live Here," concluded Mr. Bryk.

The next Report Session is Friday, October 28 at 11:30 a.m. at the Sheraton Hotel.

For more information, please contact:
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