

United Way of Winnipeg's Hard Work Pays Off as 2006 Campaign Contributions Continue to Climb

United Way of Winnipeg 2006's Campaign Chair Nick Logan delivered great news for Winnipeggers when he announced that workplace contributions across the city have climbed to \$9,094,333 million dollars or 61.8 per cent of its current Campaign goal of \$14.7 million at this morning's public report session at the Union Centre in Winnipeg.

"This is a prime example of how great things can happen when caring Winnipeggers pull together," said Nick Logan, 2006 United Way Campaign Chair. "I am proud of the work we are all doing - labour, workplaces, government, agencies, volunteers and staff. We are making a positive difference in the lives of our neighbours, co-workers and everyone else with whom we share our city."

"United Way and Oyate share the belief that everyone has something to offer," said guest speaker Mandy Richard, Manager of Oyate Tipi Cumini Yape -- one of over 100 agencies, programs and services funded by United Way of Winnipeg. "Together, we work hard to provide opportunities for people to build on their strengths and learn new skills so they can give something back to the community."

In addition to being a partner in United Way's Koats for Kids program, Oyate Tipi Cumini Yape - a United Way-funded agency -- provides essential household goods and furniture at no cost to qualifying clients of Alpha House, Elizabeth Fry Society, Ikwe-Widdijiitiwin, L'entre temps des Franco Manitobaines, Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre, Native Women's Transition Centre, North End Women's Centre, Osborne House, Wahbung Abinoojiag and Women in Second Stage Housing (W.I.S.H.).

Other partners in United Way's Koats for Kids program are The Winnipeg Sun, CTV Winnipeg, 1290 CFRW Radio, City of Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service, Perth's Services and United Parcel Service with generous support from the Winnipeg Labour Council. During its 17 years of operation, approximately 95,000 articles of warm winter outerwear have been distributed to Winnipeg children through United Way Koats for Kids.

The host of this morning's report session was Laurie Mustard, columnist with The Winnipeg Sun. It was the second of four campaign reporting sessions to be held this year. Uniformed City of Winnipeg Fire Fighters accepted gently-used children's outerwear at the event which was attended by over 150 committed volunteers from labour, public and private workplaces and agency representatives.

As a responsible and accountable fundraising organization, United Way reports back to Winnipeggers on the amount of money raised by its annual campaign. Every year, contributions to United Way's annual campaign are invested in strategies to address the issues that Winnipeggers themselves feel are most important: including reduction of poverty and marginalization, encouragement of successful children and youth and the building of stronger, safer neighbourhoods.

Support for United Way's 2006 Campaign continues to be strong on all fronts including business, government, media and Winnipeggers in general. Workplace campaigns throughout the city continue to feature dynamic guest speakers and a wide range of special events. Simultaneously, United Way's direct mail campaign provides the opportunity for people who work at home and retirees to donate to this year's annual fundraising drive.

The next Report Session is Friday, November 17, 2006 at 11:30 a.m. at the Burton Cummings Theatre (364 Smith Street).

For more information, please contact:

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