

Working together leads to success

As the 2016 United Way Campaign Chair, it has been my privilege to serve alongside so many dedicated volunteers over the last year.

It was around this time last year that we began working towards developing the Campaign Cabinet for the 2016 United Way Campaign. We had many returning volunteers and some new faces to help us as we embarked on the journey to \$3.8 million. As Henry Ford once said "Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success." The Campaign Cabinet and United Way Board embodies this quote year-round.



**Tom
Bundros**

A few weeks ago, I stood before the Campaign Cabinet and members of the United Way Board to announce that, through our combined efforts, we

had reached our goal of \$3.8 million. I can't give enough praise to the giving culture in our community. Because this culture has prevailed in our community through the years, United Way is able to help children, youth, adults and the elderly. The individuals and corporations who donate to United Way partner with us to fight for the education, basic needs and health of every member of our community. More than 57,000 individuals received United Way services in 2016. With one gift

to United Way, donors are impacting lives every day in our community.

With one gift, United Way is able to:

- Get kids ready for kindergarten, reading at grade level by third grade, and graduating on time with skills to be career and life-ready.

- Reduce the long term need for food, housing and utility assistance through life skills education and financial counseling.

- Support prevention services so youth and adults are healthy and avoid risky behaviors.

As I've shared throughout the campaign, one of our associates at Dalton Utilities, Lamar, is directly impacted by United Way. His son Ethan is supported by Cross Plains Community Partner. Through Cross Plains, Ethan found opportuni-

ties to socialize with his peers, volunteer and gain employment at Irene's Cake and Candy Shoppe. When I see the great work that United Way does through Cross Plains and other community partners, I am immensely honored to serve on the board and to have led the 2016 United Way Campaign.

I would like to thank the United Way Campaign Cabinet, Board of Directors, each individual donor and the corporations who have supported this campaign. Great things happened because of you! I hope to see you March 7 at 3:30 p.m. at Rock Bridge Stage 123 for the United Way Annual Meeting and Volunteer Awards.

Tom Bundros is the 2016 United Way Campaign Chair and the CEO of Dalton Utilities.