

United Way of Iredell looks to cover budget shortfall

By ALLISON HART

While the Mooresville South Iredell United Way has enjoyed record-setting campaigns over the past several years, its sister organization to the north is having a tougher go of it.

For the second time in nine years, Statesville-based United Way of Iredell County fell short of its goal during its annual fund-raising campaign, missing the mark by \$39,000. The goal for 2000 was \$1.48 million. Donors contributed \$1,441 million.

Now the volunteer organization is looking for ways to balance its own budget while supporting the 28 local agencies that depend on United Way for all or part of their funding.

United Way of Iredell County's board of directors is looking at places within the budget where it can shave dollars, picking out programs or extra expenses it can forgo for a year or two. The organization has a staff vacancy that may go unfilled, and the board is considering skipping this year's contribution to its reserve fund.

Executive Director Pat Stewart called allocation panel volunteers back in for a special meeting following the close of the campaign. They will decide how the \$1.44 million that was collected will be allocated — a difficult task, said Stewart, because some agencies struggle to balance their budgets.

"The agencies are in a very precarious situation," Stewart said. "They run on very tight budgets, and some have received notice that they're being cut in state funding. Now they're hearing from us there's going to be trimming in United Way funding. ... Some agencies can reduce their budgets and have reserve funds they can pull from. Others cannot make it on a penny less."

Iredell County's homeless shelter, Fifth Street Ministries, receives 12 percent of its operating budget from United Way. Administrative Director Neil Furr said United Way's unre-

stricted allocations are an important part of Fifth Street's budget because they can be used for purposes not regulated by state and federal grants, such as buying food or replacing light bulbs.

"United Way funding is like open funding," Furr said. "It's very important to us. If at the end of the year, we end up in a budget crunch and have an unexpected expense, we can use those operating funds."

"If we don't have this, we run into a bind. It puts us in a little bit tighter corner financially," he said.

The Exchange/SCAN Center of Iredell County could face a similar situation if United Way funding is cut this year. More than 16 percent of its budget comes from United Way of Iredell County and 8.7 percent comes from the Mooresville-South Iredell United Way. An additional 11 percent comes from United Way of Central Carolinas, with which the Mooresville-South Iredell unit is allied.

"It's going to have a huge impact," said Mitch Marlowe,

executive director of Exchange/SCAN. "If that does happen, it's force us to look more creatively into other sources."

Agencies usually learn what their United Way allocations are in late summer. Stewart attributes missing the 2000 campaign goal to the recent economic downturn in Iredell County. With 73 percent of its contributions coming from employee campaigns, United Way relies heavily upon workplace giving.

Downsizing companies and closing factories slice payroll deductions to United Way when workers are laid off. Not only are donations cut, but layoffs send some campaign contributors to the very United Way agencies they once supported, Stewart said.

As the allocation panel decides how to divide money from last year's campaign among the agencies, board members are setting a realistic goal of \$1.45 million for the 2001 campaign. The pacesetter division kickoff is just six weeks away.

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Clarissa Ann Carr

Clarissa Ann Carr graduated from Victory Christian Center School on Friday, June 1, 2001. She was an honor student and had a perfect attendance record the entire 12 years. She also was awarded "The President Cup" by the founder of Victory Christian Center School, Robyn Gool.

Along with the cup, Clarissa received awards for Track (MVP), Academics and Christian Character. Clarissa ranks 3rd in the state for track and field in Division I (800 meters, 1600 meters and 4x400 relay).

After a week trip to Jamaica, Clarissa will spend the summer preparing to attend Davidson College in the fall of 2001. Here she will continue her academics and run track.



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Police Blotter

Local law enforcement agencies reported the following recent charges and incidents:

MOORESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

• After getting a call about road rage, police responded to I-77 Exon around 1:45 p.m. on June 10 and spoke with a Denver man, who reported having a gun pointed at him while at the stop light at N.C. 150 and Williamson Road.

According to reports, the man told police that a white truck had been passing cars in a reckless manner on N.C. 150. The reporting person said when he pulled into the right light and stopped at the light, the truck pulled up beside his vehicle and a white male in his early 20's made an obscene gesture. When the victim made an exclamation, the white male in the truck pulled a pistol and pointed it.

Witnesses told police there was a white female in the truck as well.

• Money was stolen from a safe at the Times Turn Around on River Highway sometime between 2:30 and 3 p.m. on June 9. According to reports, three individuals — a black female and two black males — entered the store. One man and the woman distracted the clerk while the second man took the money. An investigation is continuing.

• Storm window screens were damaged and two windows were broken out at a School Street residence sometime around 11:30 p.m. on June 7.

• Reports indicate that firecrackers were then thrown through a bedroom window, causing burns to the carpet. Total damages were estimated at approximately \$130.

• Mooresville police served warrants for misdemeanor death by motor vehicle and driving while license revoked on Stephen Marquis Perkins, 24, of 1125 Woodside Ave., Charlotte in connection with a May 25, 2001 accident which occurred on Williamson

Road. Christopher Morrison was killed in the accident, investigated by Trooper Jason R. Fleming of the N.C. Highway Patrol.

Warrants indicated that Perkins failed to reduce his speed in order to avoid the accident in which Morrison was killed.

• Mooresville police filed the following recent charges:

Demond I. Moses, 23, of Charlotte, possession of a Schedule VI controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, driving while license revoked, fictitious tag; Jennifer Lee Thompson, 37, 776-1105 White Oaks Road, domestic assault; Mark Michael Hughes, 38, 776-1105 White Oaks Road, domestic assault; Alvin Cecil Watkins Jr., 36, 531 Walnut St., second-degree, communicating threats; William Carroll Goodnow Jr., 50, Mark Alan Franklin, 19, 506 Moore Club Drive, Statesville, possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia; and James Lamont Wilson, 27, 933 Blair St., possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, speeding, improper passing, driving while license revoked, inspection violation, fictitious tag and transporting an open container of an alcoholic beverage in the passenger area of a motor vehicle.

Also, Benny Richard Wingate Jr., 48, 2611 Kerr St., DWI; Christopher Scott Shaw, 28, 313 E. Lowrance Ave., assault on a female, communicating threats; Brent Craig Copeland, 20, 507 Dinger Ave., resisting, obstructing and delaying a law enforcement officer; Johnny McConneyhead, 51, 326 Alexander St., second-degree trespass; David Ray Morgan, 29, 597 Celeste Eufoia Road, Statesville, possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana, simple possession of a Schedule IV controlled substance and resisting, obstructing and delaying a law enforcement officer; and Michael Wayne Beam, 39, 171 Langtree Road, DWI, no operator's license, giving false information to police.

MSI Crime Stoppers

Police are investigating a break-in at a local business and a suspicious fire at an East Mills Avenue residence.

Mooresville-South Iredell Crime Stoppers is offering a reward for any information that may help investigators. Crime Stoppers offers rewards for information leading to arrests in connection with criminal incidents. Callers do not have to give their name or appear in court and rewards of up to \$1,000 are possible.

According to reports, police and fire department officials were called to 402 E. Mills Ave., a vacant house, around 4 a.m. on June 10. When Police Lt. P.A. Burks arrived at the house, he found the back of the house in flames and noticed a burned piece of cardboard laying on the side porch of the residence.

An investigation was conducted after firefighters extinguished the blaze and, police say, several burn marks were discovered around the house. Detective Dana Blalock and Lt. Carl Robbins were then called in to investigate the fire, which had been termed suspicious.

Damage was estimated at about \$12,000.

The owner of the house, Robert Kailer, has also offered a reward of \$1,000 for information leading to an arrest and conviction in connection with the fire.

Sometime between 10 p.m. on June 8 and 6:40 a.m. on June 9, someone broke into Sandpaper at the Lake LLC on River Highway and, once inside, entered three other businesses from the inside.

According to reports, the person or persons went from Sandpaper, where nothing was reported missing, through a door leading to Discount Travel. The individuals then pulled sheetrock off a wall to gain entry into Mailboxes, Etc. and then Turn 4 Pizza.

While inside Turn 4 Pizza, police say, the individual took approximately \$100 in cash and then tried to make a pizza, but apparently did not know how to operate the oven.

Nothing was reported missing from the other businesses, but damages were estimated at approximately \$2,400.

Det. Blalock was called to the scene to investigate. Anyone with information about the fire or the break-ins, should call Det. Blalock at the Mooresville Police Department at 704-663-3311 or Crime Stoppers at 704-663-7066.

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Counterfeit program set

Learn more about spotting counterfeit money at a special presentation from the U.S. Secret Service.

The session, "Know Your Money," will be held from 10-11:30 a.m. Wednesday, June 20, in the Joe V. Knox Auditorium at the Mooresville Citizens Center.

The program is being sponsored by the Mooresville Police Department. For more information, call Detective S.P. Berthrong at 704-664-8045.

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