



Lea County gives

MICHELLE A. FOX
NEWS-SUN
In 2004, the citizens of Lea County gave \$54,000 more to the United Way than the set goal of \$750,000. Think this is a fluke? Think again.

For five out of the past nine campaigns, Lea County has helped the United Way exceed its campaign goals. According to Kristi Martinkewiz, executive director of United Way of Lea County, since 1997, the county has given \$5.872 million to United Way. The organization has asked for only \$5.6 million.

"I'm really proud of the growth over the years," Martinkewiz said.

And compared to similarly sized — and even larger — United Way agencies, Lea County ranks near the top in per capita giving.

"One thing I thought was funny were the numbers from Hyannis Port, Mass., where we think of all the moneyed people playing," Martinkewiz said. "They have a quarter million people and a campaign barely larger than ours and smaller per capita giving."

In Hyannis Port, the United Way raised just over \$860,000 in 2003 compared to Lea County's \$737,000. And with a population of 258,180, per capita giving in the Massachusetts town was a measly \$3.37. Lea County gave \$13.56 per capita in 2003.

"You'll find that our per capita giving is pretty awesome by comparison," Martinkewiz said.

In fact, Lea County out gives cities such as Los Angeles, Las Cruces and Flagstaff, Ariz., in per capita giving. In the case of Las Cruces, Lea County had a bigger campaign.

"Several United Ways in much larger population areas have smaller or equal campaigns to Lea County's," Martinkewiz said.

Helping Lea County's per capita contribution rate is a 25 cent matching grant for every dollar donated in Lea County.

Along with direct contributions to the campaign, Lea County citizens help United Way in other ways. Hundreds flock to the annual Chili Cookoff at the Event Center. There are also many who participate in the United Way Days of Caring that benefit agencies on top of the monetary assistance.

"This is all thanks to an incredibly loyal donor base and an absurd number of returning volunteers," Martinkewiz said. "The Boy Scout camp was by far our biggest day of caring project. We did 25 projects."

In Lea County, United Way assists 19 agencies — including Manna Outreach and Option Inc. — that provide a variety of services throughout Lea County.

In 2004, three agencies received over \$50,000 in allocated funds from the \$804,000 raised. The Boys and Girls Club in Hobbs received the most money at \$78,450.

"We would definitely struggle to put on the quality and extent of programs that we do without the United Way," said Mike Clampitt, club director. "It is a vital part of our budget."

Comparative giving for United Way

City	2002 Campaign	Population	Per Capita Giving
Hobbs	\$ 737,000	55,511	\$13.56
Roswell	\$ 406,226	60,000	\$6.77
Carlsbad	\$ 355,000	33,000	\$10.73
Clovis	\$ 465,178	36,000	\$12.64
Flagstaff, AZ	\$ 1,368,417	152,459	\$8.98
Las Cruces	\$ 554,864	191,556	\$2.90
Hyannis Port, MA	\$ 869,763	258,180	\$3.37

Source: Kristi Martinkewiz United Way of Lea County



What does "REMEMBER" mean to you?

In our busy lives, we have much to REMEMBER. But how often do we take the time to remind ourselves of what's really important?

Maybe you're a current hospice family. Perhaps you lost a loved one who received hospice services. You might even be one of the "angels" who care for patients and their families every day. Or you may have your own personal reason for wanting to "remember." For anyone - whether or not your life has been touched by hospice - there are many reasons to remember.

REMEMBER... a life lived well.

"I will wear a "REMEMBER" wristband not only in honor of family members, but several former patients that touched my life. I was a VistaCare Hospice employee for two and a half years. As a case manager I serviced many wonderful families as they cared for and watched their loved ones fight a terminal illness. During these years of employment I also had to face my own fears of death and dying by watching four family members fight and die from a terminal illness. I will always be grateful that God led me to work for such a great organization. Hospice made such a difference in my life not only as an employee but also as a family member.

Tawni Akin R.N.

REMEMBER... to talk about hospice.

Thank you for this great opportunity to wear this burgundy remembrance bracelet to honor not only my family that has passed away under the care of VistaCare but to also honor the love and support VistaCare gave us. VistaCare took loving care of my dad, my mother, my aunt and my uncle. They were there beside us through the dying process and afterwards with the grieving process. It has been years since our loss and we are still receiving letters of encouragement and love from these loving people. If you ever need hospice services think of VistaCare Hospice. They are truly love and compassion.

Pam Raap



REMEMBER... the difference hospice made for your loved one and your family.

I remember what a difference hospice care made for my Mother. Sometimes you become so busy in your own life that you cannot ensure quality of care for your aging parent. Hospice was there to ensure that quality of care—those special touches and kindness that bring smiles to their patients. My mother loved the attention given to her by her hospice providers. Hospice was also there for the family at the time of my mother's death and made the difference between chaos and sanity during our time of grief. I am honored to wear a REMEMBER wristband for hospice.

Andrea B.

Show that you REMEMBER...

VistaCare is offering burgundy REMEMBER wristbands to help you remember a departed loved one, to be thankful for the blessings in your life, and to spread the word about hospice. The cost is \$20 for 10 wristbands and all proceeds will go directly to support the VistaCare Hospice Foundation, a non-profit organization committed to enhancing the quality of life for hospice patients and their loved ones.

If you would like to order REMEMBER wristbands or share your own story of remembrance, visit www.VistaCare.com/remember.

To learn more about the hospice benefit, visit www.VistaCare.com or call 505-392-2060



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