

# Donors pledge more than \$4.5 million to Olmsted United Way

From staff reports

Donors pledged more than \$4.5 million to the United Way of Olmsted County this past fall. The \$4,506,575 is an 11 percent increase from the previous year.

The United Way announced the total, as well as other awards, during a celebration Thursday.

Awards include:

- Think Credit Union for Best Overall Campaign. This goes to the company with the highest percentage of contributions.
- IBM, Mayo Clinic and

McNeilus Co. for top campaigns in terms of dollars.

- RBC Dain Rauscher and U S Bank received Campaign Excellence awards. This award is given to companies where corporate giving is at least \$40 per employee; employee giving averages at least \$185; participation is 60 percent or more; and donations are increased from the year before.

- Rick Lee of Weis Builders was the employee campaign coordinator of the year.

- Travis Frydenlund of Wells

## UPDATING THE NEWS

Fargo was the campaign ambassador of the year.

- Joan Rose received the United Way's Spirit of Caring Award for her record of community service, civic engagement and volunteerism.

- Debbie Hoffman received the President's Award, given for volunteer service to the United Way and county.

Receiving awards for their impact on the community in 2006 were the Girl Scout

Council of River Trails, Family Service of Rochester and Inter-cultural Mutual Assistance Association.

Programs honored for exceptional results were:

- Good News Child Care, Civic League Day Nursery, Child Care Resource and Referral for their school preparedness partnership. Together they helped 554 children reach developmental milestones for success and brought an additional \$657,000 in state funds into the community.

- Legal Services of Olmsted County for maximizing staff expertise and hundreds of volunteer attorney hours to resolve 469 cases outside the courtroom.

- Rapid Access Clinic created by Zumbro Valley Mental Health and Olmsted County. This interagency team for acute psychiatric care reduced appointment waiting times to less than two weeks, and refers stable patients to community psychiatrists, saving local providers more than \$250,000 in uncompensated care costs.

- Rochester Area Disabled Athletics and Recreation, which involves more than 850 people with physical and mental challenges in physical and social activities.

- The Reading Center, which has used wireless and portable technology to increase productivity, staff efficiency, maximize office space and redirect administrative time to client services.

- Rochester Area Family Y for integrating a results mindset into its Y Mentors program.