

Great Game Huddle Notes

October 10th, 2017

As we kick-off our 2018 United Way Fundraising drive, we welcomed our guest speaker, Stephanie Pape, Senior Director of Resource Development for the United Way of the Ozarks.

The United Way of the Ozarks serves fourteen southern Missouri counties and last year impacted the lives of 311,000 individuals. 80 cents of every \$1 donated goes toward funding of the United Way partners.

A full list of the counties served and United Way partners can be seen at www.uwozarks.com/partners/

Stephanie spoke to us about an overwhelming issue that impacts southwest Missouri today, and that is generational poverty and the many facets of it. The goal of the United Way is to help children and their families break these cycles of poverty, homelessness, domestic violence, child abuse, and neglect.

The Harmony House is one United Way partner that provides safe and secure emergency housing to families escaping domestic violence. Harmony house is the largest domestic violence shelter in the state of Missouri. This is an unfortunate statistic because it equates to the need for emergency housing being greater than in any other part of the state, including Kansas City and St. Louis. Oftentimes, people don't realize they are victims because they come from families with generational violence within them so that is all they know. Repeated calls to 911, emergency room visits and the strain on our judicial system are a few examples of how costly domestic violence can be to our community. Each year Harmony House provides shelter, case management, advocacy and other supportive services to more than 700 women and children. In addition to shelter services, they also offer outreach support, advocacy and prevention education services. The mission of the Harmony House is to help women break the cycle of domestic violence and live lives free from abuse.

While The Harmony House is just one of the many partnerships that United Way has generated over the years that specializes in emergency housing & domestic violence. United Way has multiple agencies with various other specialties that they can partner with to help mobilize their resources, depending on the circumstances to best serve the people of Southwest Missouri. Together with these partnerships United Way is motivated more than ever to reach their goals of breaking the cycle of generational poverty, homelessness, domestic violence, child abuse, and neglect.

“When we live United we don't just change lives, we change what's possible.”