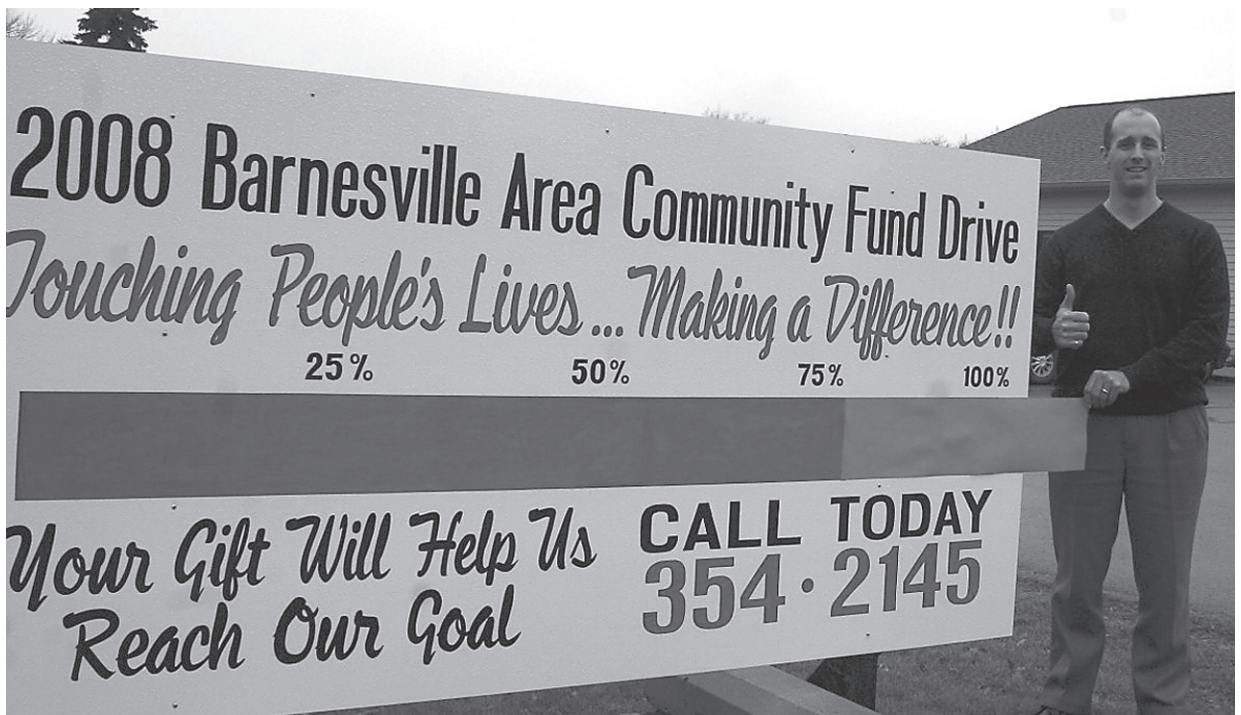


# Community's Generosity Exceeds Fund Drive Goal



Barnesville Area Community Fund Chairman Sean Wahl is showing his excitement about the overwhelming, charitable response people have given to the 2008 Fund Drive. Wahl gives a “thumbs up” indicating that the total gifts raised during this year’s fund drive exceeded the goal by 26 percent.

“On behalf of the Community Fund advisory board and the subcommittee boards, I would like to thank the Barnesville community for their overwhelming support of the Barnesville Area Community Fund,” exclaims Chair Sean Wahl.

Organizers attribute a number of reasons for the campaign’s success. One is because the monetary gifts were raised through a variety of methods. In addition to lead gifts, nearly 50 solicitors made personal contacts with close to 250 businesses, organizations and individuals in the Barnesville area. Close to \$5,000 in gifts were received from Barnesville High School alumni from across the United States. Current Barnesville High School students contacted 320 persons during a phone-a-thon.

All of these efforts brought in over \$221,000 in donations and pledges, exceeding the goal by 26 percent. No matter what size of the gift, whether it was \$10 or \$5,000 or somewhere in between, donors demonstrated their commitment and investment to the community by contributing what

they could.

What is even more exciting is that the Community Fund received gifts from over 583 donors, an increase of 50 percent over the 2004 Fund Drive.

“Everyone who donated or has volunteered for any of the numerous activities coordinated by the Barnesville Area Community Fund should feel proud of the results of this fund drive,” adds Wahl. “The generous donations of businesses and individuals, the Barnesville Area Community Fund will be able to play a major role in the development of this community.”

“I am personally very proud to be a Barnesville resident and see first hand how the citizens and businesses of the Barnesville area support one another. The Barnesville area is a strong, active and vital community in this region because of the fact we continue to support one another through activities in our area,” says Wahl.

For 18 years, the Barnesville Area Community Fund has been making

a difference. Whether funds are used to help provide gap financing through the Revolving Loan Fund enabling businesses to start up or expand, award scholarships via Dollars for Scholars to aid in post-secondary education expenses, present grant dollars to non-profit organizations to improve the quality of life in the Barnesville area, serve as a conduit when benefits are held to help specific individuals in time of crisis, or donating money to the School Foundation to enhance curriculum opportunities for Barnesville students, the Barnesville Area Community Fund is touching the lives of people.

The 2008 Fund Drive provided proof that people living across the United States want to help the Barnesville Area Community Fund to make an impact in the area.

Treasurer Mike Farrell received a letter and gift from an individual whose handwritten letter said... “My husband was always proud of his hometown and especially the school where he got a good education. He

left us several years ago, but since Barnesville was an important part of his life, enclosed please find a \$500 check in his memory and to say “thanks” to everyone who helped make him the great man he was.”

Another example comes from an alum living in Texas. After receiving a letter asking him to consider a gift to Dollars for Scholars, a \$20 bill came in the mail, along with a scrawled note on the back of an evacuation notice that said... “we’ve been without power since the hurricane. Enclosed please find \$20, it’s not much, but I hope that it helps.”

A different account comes from a local retired couple that made a larger four-year pledge than they had originally planned to the Community Fund. Their decision to give even more came after they had heard from a volunteer of the many Community Fund success stories and about how so many people were working together to make a difference.

“Touching peoples lives was the theme of this year’s fund drive and by the effort all people involved, the Barnesville Area Community Fund will continue to accomplish this goal for years to come,” Wahl declares.

It’s not late to make your gift to the 2008 Fund Drive. Please call 354-2145 for more information.

11-10-1x  
front page stories  
pix