
Posted on Thu, Feb. 22, 2007

Record year for United Way

Certainly congratulations and gratitude are due the leaders and volunteers of the just-completed annual fund drive for United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley. Guy Sims, the career educator and former school superintendent who is retiring as United Way president to pursue different kinds of charitable endeavors, deserves to step away in style.

And indeed he does. Tuesday's official tally puts pledges for the year at more than \$6.6 million, well beyond the \$6.4 million goal, and a local record.

It's good news for the 22 United Way-funded agencies on a couple of levels: The main funding source they depend on comes through in a big way, and the ripple effect could boost their individual fund drives as well. "Usually, if the United Way campaign goes well," said Don Sharitt of United Way Executive Directors Association, "the others do, too."

A lot of people gave generously of their time and effort to make this a banner year for charitable giving in the greater Valley area, and they have earned the community's thanks.

But it is the community itself, of course, that ultimately is both benefactor and beneficiary of a successful campaign. No matter how persistent and skillful the people running the show might be, their efforts finally depend on the generosity and public-spiritedness of the donor pool. And as we have seen repeatedly, that pool in this community is both wide and deep.

-- Dusty Nix, for the editorial board