

Hello, I am Mike Conrad, Chair of the 2007 Champaign County United Way Annual Campaign. The 2007 campaign is quickly coming to an end. You may have noticed from the thermometer in front of the court house that our community has raised 70% of the \$270,000 goal. These dollars support 21 non-profit programs in the community. This is a great accomplishment given some of the struggles our community is facing.

As the Chair of the campaign I am sometimes asked, “Why should I give to The United Way”? There are many reasons to give to The United Way, foremost that the dollars raised stay here in Champaign County to help local people in need through the many programs it supports. In addition to the funds raised by The United Way, this organization provides two free services to the public, 2-1-1 Information & Referral and Child Care Connections.

2-1-1 is an information and referral service provided to Champaign County residents through The United Way’s Community Services Department. This is not a new service but now has a new, easy to remember phone number with trained specialists available to provide referrals to local not-for profits, church outreaches, government organizations and much more. The best part is that this service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Child Care Connections is a child care resource program linking families who need daycare with daycare homes, centers and after school care. They also recruit people wanting to become providers.

If you are interested in learning more about 2-1-1 or any of the services The United Way provides to the community, just pick up the phone and dial 2-1-1, you’ll get connected and get answers!

Biographical Information: Mike Conrad, President/General Manager of CT Communications. He has been associated with the United Way of Clark, Champaign and Madison Counties for 11 years.