

## United Way of the Concho Valley

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# **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **UNITED WAY SETS 2009 GOAL**

The United Way of the Concho Valley has announced its 2009 Annual Campaign Goal. According to Shelley Burnett, the 2009 United Way Campaign Chair, the goal has been set at \$2 million. "Given the current economic status, this may be a leap of faith to some extent, but we firmly believe that the residents in the Concho Valley understand there is a greater need than ever before and will support this community as they have in the past," said Burnett. The 2008 campaign goal was also set at \$2 million and ultimately raised \$,2,104,000.

This year's United Way Annual Campaign theme is "Stand by Me" from the 1961 Ben E. King recording. "Serious economic challenges face communities across the country including ours. While in some respects that affects all of us, impoverished children and elderly citizens living in our area will suffer the most. If ever there was a time when the Concho Valley truly needed its residents to stand by those less fortunate, it is now," said Burnett.

United Way work place campaigns are already in progress and will continue until the end of December. Loaned executives, who are volunteers given to the United Way by their respective companies to assist with the work place campaigns are Sheila Alley, Wells Fargo Bank; Courtney Beach, Oliver, Rainey & Wojtek; Shelene Black, 1<sup>st</sup> Community Federal Credit Union; Mike Ferguson, Ethicon, Inc.; Linda Fira, Texas State Bank; Tracy Gonzalez, City of San Angelo Police Department; Robin Green, Alcohol & Drug Abuse Council; Ed Harris, Shannon Medical Center; Ryan Haverlah, City of San Angelo Finance Department; Jamie Highsmith, San Angelo Independent School

District; Terry Mobley, Tom Green County; Michelle Pape, Texas State Bank; Tabitha Ramirez, ICD Family Shelter; Judy Rippetoe, Concho Valley Rape Crisis Center; Andrea Robles, Esperanza Health & Dental Center; Jimmy Scott, Goodyear Proving Grounds; Pete Thiry, YMCA; Brian Trainer, Ethicon, Inc.; Luke Uherik, San Angelo National Bank and Anthony Wilson, City of San Angelo Civic Events.

The “Stand by Me” theme is also reflected in this year’s campaign video as local musicians including Kevin Brown, Bobby Butler, Robert Chatman, David Cox, Johnny Dutton, Glen Ford, Kelly Henson, Miles McMillan, Angel Noriega, Jimmy Rose, Blair Breitreiter Smart, John Talley and Sam Vasquez Wrinkle perform King’s “Stand by Me” recording. The audio was recorded and edited by David Tillery of The Master’s House Recording Studio. The video portion was produced by Chad Wilson, KLST/KSAN Creative Services. The campaign video is available to be shown at United Way work place campaigns or events.

The United Way supports 19 local program providers which help people in need throughout the Concho Valley. “Please stand by me in supporting the United Way and your community. Thank you to all of you who have stood by those in need in the Concho Valley in the past, and also for standing by those who need us now,” said Burnett. For more information or to schedule a work place campaign, contact the United Way office at 949-3716.