



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 22, 2015**  
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### **United Way of Hastings Allocates Funds to Local School Programs**

**(HASTINGS, MN)** The United Way of Hastings (UWH) presented an allocation of \$30,500 at the May 20 School Board meeting in support of programs associated with Hastings Independent School District (ISD) #200.

Each spring, a group of individuals from the community join the UWH Community Investment Committee and review applications for funding from several local agencies. This process includes interviews with selected agencies. Based on the funds raised in the previous year by the UWH and direction from the UWH Board of Directors, the committee allocates funds to organizations and programs that fall within the agency funding guidelines established by the UWH.

Agencies associated with ISD#200 that received funding this year include:

- Community Education Early Childhood Program
- Community Education Disabilities Program
- Hastings High School Field Biology
- Hastings High School and Hastings Middle School Special Friends Program
- Hastings Middle School OASIS
- Hastings Middle School Summer Wedge

In addition to these programs, several programs funded by the UWH have a direct impact on schools or are school partnerships such as the Partners for Success program administered by 360 Communities. The UWH has provided funding to 360 Communities for the Partners for Success Program in our elementary and middle schools and funding has been allocated to Hope Christian Preschool & Kindergarten.

The UWH also invests in early literacy programs including Dolly Parton's Imagination Library book program. This program provides a book to children from birth to five years old and nurtures the love of reading in children and fosters parent reading time with young children.

Other programs such as the Alternative Spring Break, Hastings READS, Helping Kids Succeed —The Hastings Way, and Student Impact Promise Fellows at Hastings Middle and Hastings High School are examples of UWH funded programs in partnership with many organizations and volunteers in the community. These are examples of work that provide rich literacy opportunities to children and families supporting what is done in our schools. "When we can partner with the schools, local businesses, the faith community, government and volunteers, we have collective impact," said Mari E. Mellick, CAE, Executive Director.

It was relayed at the school board meeting that through investments by community members, the UWH is able to fund nearly \$100,000 to educational programs throughout the community. "Funding for youth and educational programs is a focus area for the UWH over the coming years," said Mellick. "With such a small budget to work with, <the UWH annual revenue

amounts to approximately \$300,000 each year>, the funding allocated towards youth and educational initiatives is very impressive.”

The UWH is an independent United Way that has worked for over 50 years serving Hastings and the surrounding rural communities within Independent School District #200. Its mission is to build partnerships to improve the lives of people in our community. Donations are accepted year-round. For more information about the UWH and the agencies it funds, visit [www.unitedwayofhastings.org](http://www.unitedwayofhastings.org).

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Photo Left to Right Front: Hastings School Board and United Way of Hastings Board and Staff Lisa Hedin, Vince O'Brien, Tiffany Peine, Liz Dickinson, Bryan Schafer  
Back: Dan Cater, Russ Rohloff, Norm Rogers, Kyle Latch, Tony Alongi, Theresa Moes, Dawn Johnson, Rowie Hansberger

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