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Centre County United Way | Together, community can make a difference

By Nick Lingenfelter and George Downsborough Jr.

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It was Helen Keller who said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

As co-chairmen of the 2013 Centre County United Way Campaign, we gain inspiration from Keller's words and are confident that our community will respond to our call by donating their time, talent or treasure to the United Way Campaign.

On Aug. 19, we announced a \$2,100,000 goal for the 2013 campaign and celebrated the 33 local pacesetter companies and their employees who have already contributed 25 percent of our goal.

They have started us off on the right foot, but the journey is far from complete.

Our effort to raise funds for our 34 partner agencies requires all of us to work together. United, we can reach our goal. United, we can make a positive impact on thousands of lives in Centre County.

Over the next several months, you will have the opportunity to read stories from our partner agencies that highlight the ongoing collaborations among organizations. You will also read about collaborations that formed to address immediate needs in the community.

The stories may be different, but the message is the same: United, we can.

United, we can protect our children, feed our hungry neighbors, provide shelter to our homeless, plan for natural disasters, care for the elderly, give people hope, secure the future of our community and build a stronger Centre County.

Raising money and funding our 34 partner agencies is only one part of what we do to make Centre County a better community.

We also know that meeting urgent needs alone is not enough. Achieving impact means bringing together and mobilizing people from across our county and from all walks of life. When we work together, we are changing the conditions of individuals, families, neighborhoods and the entire county.

We invite you to be a part of the "United We Can" movement.

You can make an impact by volunteering your time at a United Way event such as Day of Caring, Festival of Trees or Trash to Treasure. You can make an impact by sharing your talent on a United Way committee. You can make an impact by sharing your treasure through a donation to the campaign.

Please join us, because united, we can!

Nick Lingenfelter is vice president and market manager of First National Bank and a 2013 campaign co-chairman. George Downsborough Jr. is retired from Raytheon and a 2013 campaign co-chairman.

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