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For the Week of Sept. 14, 2009
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Don't Forget to Make Your United Way Contribution

This week our United Way campaign is winding down. The funds that our dedicated team members have raised during the past month will help to provide support for 71 United Way human service partners, who provide more than 160 programs to meet the needs of our community. Most importantly, these funds assist our friends and neighbors who are truly in need of help.

It is not too late to make your contribution to this campaign. The official deadline is Sept. 15, but we will be able to accept donations until the end of the year. However, all pledge cards received by Sept. 21 will be entered in the final prize drawings. Don't miss out on these great prizes! As a pacesetter organization for the United Way, we at LMHS are hoping to receive 100 percent participation from our team members. If we can all give a little bit, no matter how large or small, then it truly does make a difference in the lives of those in need. Being a pacesetter means LMHS holds its campaign before other organizations in the community as a way to encourage as much community participation as possible. We have come very close to reaching our goal of \$140,000. So far, LMHS has raised about \$115,000!

These funds could not come at a better time. In light of the struggling economy, our community continues to be in great need. Our local unemployment rate is more than 13 percent, and our school district is now among the 100 most in need in the nation, based on data derived from the schools' free lunch program.

In addition to helping our community, the dollars raised during United Way will benefit our valued team members at LMHS. When you fill out your pledge card, you have an option of sending your donation to a general fund for distribution or allocating where you would like your donation to go. A new option for allocation this year is the LMHS Employee Assistance Fund. This fund replaces the internal LMHS Employee Relief Fund as of Oct. 1. The United Way will now manage this fund, and employees in need of assistance will be directed to the United Way 211 for case management support and referrals to appropriate services and agencies.

Our contributions to the LMHS Employee Assistance Fund will be used to supplement the services provided by other agencies, increasing benefits to our employees. If you choose to make a donation to the United Way campaign, you can send in the pledge card you received last month via interoffice mail, or you can make a donation electronically. Just click here: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey-intro.zgi?p=WEB229hPHX3KZX>.

Please remember that every little bit helps. However, if you are able to give a little more, you will become a member of the Leadership Givers and invited to attend a reception hosted by Doug Luckett, CAO for GCMC and CCH, and myself. To become a Leadership Giver, you can choose to make a \$39 donation per pay period as part of the United Way's Keel Club, or you can give \$20 per pay period as part of the Sextant Club.

Payroll deduction for the United Way campaign will not begin until January 2010.

LMHS Earns AARP Honors Once Again!

For the fifth year in a row, LMHS has been named to AARP's list of Best Employers for Workers Over 50. We rank No. 2 on the list of 2009 Health Care winners who have earned this award.

This is an impressive achievement!

For a complete listing of the 2009 winners, go to www.aarp.org/bestemployers.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim". The letters are cursive and connected, with a small dot above the 'i'.

Jim Nathan

President, Lee Memorial Health System