



Wisconsin State AFL-CIO ...the voice for working families.

Phillip L. Neuenfeldt, President • Stephanie Bloomingdale, Secretary-Treasurer

November 2011

TO ALL AFFILIATES:

United Way Endorsement

The mission of the AFL-CIO Community Services Program is to make our communities better places in which to live, work, raise a family, and retire. These goals are a good fit with work being done by local United Ways. For this reason, we heartily endorse this year's United Way fundraising efforts throughout most of the state (but more on that later).

Our nation and our state have never faced more challenging times economically. Here in Wisconsin, thousands of workers have lost their jobs, with some sectors - such as manufacturing and construction - being hit harder than others. Public employees have become "targets" - subjected to burdensome additional cost sharing and wage freezes. The lack of family-supporting jobs is one of the major causes of the very, very slow economic recovery.

With our economy faltering, affecting much of the working class and governmental "safety nets" strained to their limits, the programs of area United Ways are critical to supporting and strengthening our communities. The partnerships formed locally are a long term investment in bringing about real change and they are essential to maintaining these services for all families.

With so many struggling, we are fortunate here in Wisconsin to have ten AFL-CIO Community Services Liaisons who work with local United Ways in conjunction with their Central Labor Councils/Local Unions. This year more than ever, we urge all affiliates to endorse and participate in their local United Way Campaign. Your support -- through financial contributions of any amount, active participation, and volunteerism on a local level -- is encouraged and greatly appreciated.

In Solidarity,

Phil Neuenfeldt
President

Stephanie Bloomingdale
Secretary-Treasurer