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## **United Way division chairs confer**

Michelle Schaefer, 2006 United Way Drive Chair, met with division chairs to begin this year's effort to raise \$875,000 to support the operating and program expenses of 21 local agencies.

Julia Aker was introduced as the vice drive chair.

Aker is the director of Jackson County Public Library. She has been employed there since June 1987, and served as children's librarian until 1997.

Born to Tom and Alberta Tracy and raised in Seymour, she attended Immanuel Lutheran School and Seymour High School. She graduated from Indiana University in 1986 with a degree in French and in 1987 with a master's degree in library science.

She serves as program chairman of the board of directors for Boys & Girls Club, on the board of directors of Leadership Jackson County, as secretary and vice-president-elect of Seymour Rotary Club, as secretary of Seymour Main Street and is on its promotion committee and is on the auditing committee of Immanuel Lutheran Church. She is also a graduate of the Leadership Jackson County program and a member and past state president of Epsilon Sigma Alpha sorority. In the past, she was a clubs and organizations division co-chair of the Jackson County United Way, on the board of directors of the Health Center of Jackson County, on the Kids First Council, and on the board of education at Immanuel Lutheran School.

Aker has one son, Colin, a sophomore at Seymour High School. She said she enjoys spending time with friends and family, bargain shopping and reading.

Division chairs serving this year include: Justin Blomenberg, Industry; Jenny Ault, Special Services; Marc and Missy Woods, Business; Lauren Mincy, Professional; Craig Luedeman, Government; Cheryl Fenton and John Perkins, Education; Mary Sue Spurgeon, Brownstown; Taleen Baker, Crothersville, and Mary Jane Burton; Medora, They will be recruiting individual team volunteers who will meet in July for campaign training.

Letters are being sent to local individuals and businesses offering an opportunity to join other community supporters in the Perpetual Pledge Leadership division. This division allows donors to become a member of one of the leadership levels. They will not be contacted by a solicitor and their pledge will be included in the kickoff total. Pledges will be accepted now, but payable as the discretion of the donor through 2007. Questions concerning membership in this Leadership Division may be directed to the United Way office at 522-5450.

Leadership levels for the 2006 campaign are: Jackson Society, \$3,330; Pacesetter, \$2,200; Merit, \$1,100; Booster, \$520; Patron, \$260. United Way of America Alexis de Tocqueville Society recognition will be giving to donors who pledge \$10,000 or more per year.