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A&M helps charity reach record high in annual pledges

By Sharon Foreman
 Reporter

Record donations from Texas A&M led the surge of pledges that resulted in an all-time high for Brazos County United Way pledges.

This year the organization collected \$497,557, a 5.8 percent increase over last year's collection of \$470,446.

Chairman Nancy Crouch said she was pleased with the efforts of every volunteer, but gave particular attention to Texas A&M, where giving increased 26 percent from last year's total of an all-time high of \$134,703.

"The reason for the increase in collections from the University," Crouch said, "is because of the people in charge who possess outstanding leadership qualities."

The two University divisions, headed by Don Powell, director of business services, and Vice Chancellor Dr. Mark Money, have done extremely well this year, Crouch said.

Money, system drive campaign leader, said 17 different elements within the system's offices participated in this year's drive. Such organized groups included the Chancellor's Office, the Board of Regents and the College of Agriculture.

"The sensitivity of personnel on campus to be an active part of the community... is tremendous."
 — Mark Money, A&M vice chancellor

Crouch said a special division headed by the Rev. Craig Borchardt followed suit and did a wonderful job of collecting pledges from various agencies, churches and residential individuals in the community.

By the year's end in December, Crouch said she hopes to have reached United Way's goal of \$510,000.

"I am ecstatic over drive results so far, but I'm most pleased for the 21 agencies we support," Crouch said. "In difficult economic times the serious needs of the community just seem to come out of the woodwork, and the community's willingness to rise to the occasion tells us a lot about our empathy and concern."

Crouch believes the increase in this year's pledges has come about for several reasons. One thing the group did differently this year, Crouch said, was to purchase video training tapes from United Way International that were used to train division heads.

Crouch said the tapes were used to teach section leaders how to make effective calls to contributors, how to run effective group meetings for large company firms and how to call on chief executive officers to get their influence in campaigns.

A second effort the group did differently was to set goals for the community's potential contributions based on its income, she said.

"There are over 54,000 people employed in the Bryan-College Station area with an average rate of \$8 per hour," Crouch said. "If each working person donated one hour's pay per month for a year, United Way could raise over \$5 million."

She said the money raised each year comes from volunteers who donate their time and money to help the needy in the community.

Of the \$510,000 goal, only 12.8 percent will be withheld to cover administrative costs and assistance to state and national agencies, Crouch said. The rest will stay within Brazos County.

Crouch said some of next year's goals are to collect a higher percentage of potential donations and to increase student funding through organizations on the A&M campus.

"The sensitivity of personnel on campus to be an active part of the community and help those who need assistance is tremendous," Money said.

Money said each office participating sets a goal according to pay within the division and tries to reach that goal by the end of the year.

The University fund drive headed by campaign leader Powell did exceedingly well this year, but the ability to collect pledge donations from students remains relatively high.

"We haven't tapped into the potential of the student body," Powell said.

In the past some organizations have participated in drives for programs such as the Brazos County Food Bank, Brazos County American Red Cross and the Brazos County Rape Crisis Center, he said.

"Contribution tables have been set up in the MSC from time to time, as well as passing coffee cans around on the A&M shuttle buses for donations," Powell said. "But the possibility of student contributions remains to be in a stage of development — just think if each student at A&M donated a dollar to United Way each semester!"

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The new pipeline would expand a pipeline from California and is designed to funnel oil production surpluses in California to the under-used refineries along the Texas coast.

The pipeline would stretch 486 miles from McCamey in West Texas to the Gulf Coast near Webster. The alternate routes include a northern route passing near Waco, a central route passing south of Austin, a southern route passing south of San Antonio and using existing pipelines or tankers.

Advantages of the northern route are that it would cross fewer miles of steep slopes and sensitive aquifers.

The northern route also would not cross streams that contain important fish populations such as those in the central and southern

All American pipeline passing near Waco gets agency's support

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Study: Water, sewer problem worse than officials thought

EL PASO (AP) — An independent study shows that El Paso County's water and sewer problems are worse than health officials thought.

Health officials had been estimating that 10,000 people in El Paso County lived in Third World conditions in 100 "colonias" without adequate water and sewerage systems.

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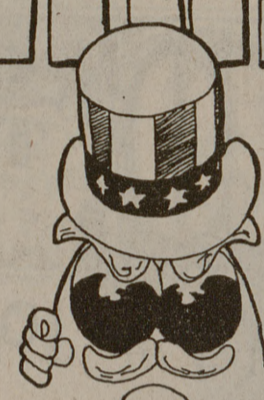
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