

Local agency receives \$45K grant from United Way

By Kimberly Horg

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An Amador County non-profit agency recently received a sizable grant from the United Way.

Amador-Tuolumne Community Resources received a check for \$45,000 from United Way on Aug. 25.

The agency provides comprehensive child abuse and family violence prevention through therapeutic counseling, parenting classes, parent aide home visiting, monitoring and crisis call intervention.

"This was funded under our signature projects that United Way came up with that focuses on the youth in Amador," Rick Macias, United Way public relations specialist, said. "They were one of several

organizations that got funded with a grant through this project with last year's money that was raised."

The community impact fund has seven signature projects. One is for health coverage for kids, another is after school programs and one is for homeless people, he said.

Amador-Tuolumne Community Resources is an independent organization that is governed by a volunteer board of directors who oversees how it is run. The board meets at the end of the fiscal year. It approves the grants and the funds that get divided at the end of the campaign in November. The bulk of the campaign runs through fall. According to the need, it is estimated by the board to see what agencies get what amount of money.

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United Way California Capital Region's annual fundraiser campaign set a goal to come up with even more money this year than last year's \$12.5 million it raised with the support of 750 companies and organizations. On Aug. 25 the organization gathered around 600 guests that were industry executives, political leaders and community members from private, public and non-profit sectors to help get the ball rolling to achieve their plan to raise a whopping \$15 million.

"Since last year, the goal has been increased by 20 percent. This is a goal that we feel is achievable," Macias said.

There are five counties; Amador, El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento and Yolo Counties that represent this region of United Way. The event featured an exhibition with 70 local non-profit agencies that represented this region. The purpose of the exhibition was to inform, educate and let people know how their organizations are impacting lives along with information on how to get involved.

"The agency fair is a way to get donors to meet people or learn more about different organizations. The meeting is a chance to connect the donors to the or-

ganizations. A donor can give to any non-profit of their choice or to a community impact fund," Macias said.

United Way operates in a partnership with businesses, volunteers, contributors, non-profit agencies and other people in communities to make the place they live a stronger, healthier and more compassionate living environment. This is accomplished by mobilizing and combining resources that are invested in local health and human service programs.

"It is a very aggressive campaign with great team members. There are 15 on a campaign team," Macias said.

California State Controller Steve Westly and Secretary for Education Richard Riordan were the keynote speakers for the event. Both of them serve as the chair and vice chair of the 2004 California state Employees Charitable Campaign (CSECC). Speeches were also made from United Way Board Chair Mark Hoag, United Way President and CEO Clare N. Thain. A success story from Bonnie McAdams of the Boys and Girls Club of Auburn and a performance by the Center for Fathers and Families also helped kick off the

event.

The non-profit agencies added a real approach to some of their organization's pitches by bringing someone along to the meeting who is directly involved with their program — for example, a person who runs the homeless shelter — that could tell the donors how the money is used and what exactly it will go towards, he said.

"It allows them an opportunity to see where the money is going and gives people a chance to ask questions," he said. "Working for United Way gives me a good prospective on the community and on the world," Macias said.

Donations to a non-profit agency are tax deductible. There are 1,400 United ways throughout the nation. For more information see the United Way's Website at <http://national.unit-edway.org>