

ADVOCATE.

- **United Way focuses on “Helping Children and Youth Achieve Their Potential”.**

In the fall of 2008, the north Rock County libraries partnered with United Way of North Rock County to bring a “Live United” message to area children, promoting community service. Live United means that all of us, no matter the age, can do our part to reach out, all working together to make our world better.

HEDBERG PUBLIC LIBRARY - Janesville

The program began with Randy Golackson reading a lively rendition of Rainbow Fish while children acted out the book with an oceanic cast of characters. Mr. Golackson then explained how he helps others through his job at M&I Bank and through volunteering as Chair of the Hedberg Public Library Board.



Maggie May helps Mr. Golackson with Rainbow Fish

Evon Mitchell then told about volunteering at the Janesville Literacy Council. She held up a card with the number of adults who are illiterate in the United States. Through her help at Literacy Council, she can lessen this number by teaching adults to read.



Evon Mitchell talking about her community service work with Janesville Literacy Council

Our last local celebrity, Paul Benish of M&I Bank, told a story about a boy who was walking on the beach with his father and there were starfish scattered all over the beach. The child started to throw them back in the sea, one by one, as he walked. The dad said, “But there are so many! You cannot make a difference by throwing those few back in.” The boy picked up another one and threw it into the ocean, saying, “But I

made a difference to that one!”

Through Mr. Benish’s work with the G.I.F.T.S. Homeless Shelter for Men in Janesville, our community is making a difference to each one of these men, giving them a place to stay, helping them get back on their feet once again.

Then the children who attended the program gathered to make placemats for the G.I.F.T.S. shelter meals. Hedberg Public Library laminated the placemats so the men who come to the shelter can be cheered up day after day by the brightly colored designs of the children.



Emily & Edwin show off their placemats

That’s what living united is all about – all of us working together to help each other – whether we’re on the giving or receiving end. And whether we realize it or not, sometimes we end up giving and receiving at the same time.

Darby helping Mr. Benish with his starfish story

