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United Way campaign exceeds goal

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NORTHUMBERLAND - A tough economic climate didn't dampen the giving spirit of Northumberland residents during the 2008 United Way campaign.

On Tuesday morning, the local agency revealed it had exceeded its goal of \$845,000+, by raising \$848,191, a majority of which will be dispersed to 16 local member agencies.

Campaign co-chairs Elizabeth and Michael Cortesis were thrilled with the result of this year's campaign.

"So many people worked very hard to make this happen," said Mr. Cortesis. "We weren't sure we could make it, but the community once again came through."

Mr. Cortesis said the volunteerism was widespread through local industries, banks, the retail and real estate sector, finance, auto sales and the many special events, which are run by a large troupe of volunteers.

"The United Way relies on the hard work and dedication of the volunteers to make this a successful campaign and they once again came through this year, even with the challenges out there," Mr. Cortesis said.

But, with the current economic crisis facing southern Ontario, the campaign co-chairs were unsure if the goal of \$845,000+ (the plus meaning more was hope for) could be reached.

"There were moments when we didn't think we were going to make it (but) we all believe in possibility and that is why we have been able to surpass our goal this year.

Awards were presented to local industries for their donations. Recipients in Port Hope were Cameco Corp., Cameco Fuel Manufacturing (formerly Zircatec — Local 175 United Steelworkers of America), Chemcraft Akzo Nobel, Collins and Aikman (Local 889 Universal Steel Workers), Esco Limited (Local 715).

In Cobourg, recipients were Behan Construction, Belden, Columbus McKinnon (CAW Local 222), Coveright Surfaces, Horizon Plastics (Local 175 United Food and Commercial Workers), Sabic Innovative Plastics, Strapex Canada, and



Peter Dounoukos/Northumberland News

United Way campaign co-chairs Michael Cortesis, left, and his wife Elizabeth, as well as Port Hope campaign chair Mary Ellen Hardy, and United Way executive director Lynda Kay, reveal this year's campaign tally of \$848,191, on Tuesday morning. Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2009

Weetabix (Local 175).

In Warkworth, the Warkworth Institution received an award, while the Northumberland Labour Council also received special recognition.