

SAT.-SUN.

May 9-10, 2009

Established 1786

Northampton, Massachusetts

Weekend DAILY HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE

GAZETTENET.COM

United Way fetes \$1.2M, volunteers

By OWEN BOSS
Staff Writer

HADLEY — The United Way of Hampshire County celebrated the successful completion of a \$1.2 million fundraising campaign Friday with a luncheon to honor the nonprofit's volunteers at the local Courtyard Marriott hotel.

John Ebbets, CEO of the United Way's local affiliate, said the success of the organization's Live United Community Campaign is due to thousands of generous donations from local residents and businesses.

"A little bit of money from a lot of different people makes all the difference," Ebbets said.

Money raised during this year's campaign, which began in September, will be allocated starting in July to three of the organization's major program areas; Children and Youth, Health and Safety and Economic Security.

"Throughout this campaign we have asked our community to embrace the concept of Live United and its two sim-

■ See UNITED WAY / Page A7

Weekend Gazette • gazettenet.com A7

United Way reaches \$1.2M goal

■ Continued from A1

ple messages: one, when we reach out a hand to one we influence the condition of all, and two, because together we can accomplish more than any single person or group can on their own," Ebbets said.

At the luncheon, the organization recognized several volunteers who went above and beyond during this year's campaign. Hadley resident John Vassallo was named Most Valuable Community Volunteer for

devoting more than 30 years of service; Robin Kline of Cooley Dickinson Hospital was named the organization's Most Valuable Employee Volunteer for her work in raising money through the hospital; The Spirit of the Community Award, which is presented to a company or institution that has shown outstanding leadership in a workplace campaign, was awarded to Peter Knapp of West Hatfield's Danco Modern furniture store; and the Hennessey Award, presented to the individual who had the

greatest impact on the current campaign, was given to Ralph Hexter, president of Hampshire College.

For the coming fiscal year, the nonprofit's board of directors has voted to allocate \$638,370 in community funds and donor designations to its 27 agencies, just shy of a 4 percent increase over the total last year, while another \$35,000 is expected to be directed to other local agencies as designated by donors.

Owen Boss can be reached at oboss@gazettenet.com.