



Wednesday, February 20, 2002

## OU fund drive helps community

Now is the time for OU employees to help meet the critical needs of fellow Oakland County citizens through Oakland University's fund drive for United Way (UW) and the Black United Fund (BUF).

Gifts to the **United Way** help organizations that identify problems and concerns in the local community. Those organizations provide health services and services to children, families and neighborhoods in crisis. Such organizations include the American Red Cross, Goodwill Industries, Oakland Livingston Legal Aid, Pontiac Urban League and Gleaners Community Food Bank.

The **Black United Fund** helps build a viable philanthropic institution for African-American opportunity, growth and change. BUF raises funds for and provides technical assistance to African-American organizations that offer a wide variety of services to African-Americans in the areas of child welfare, health, education, equal opportunity, economic development, the environment and social justice.

Employees have the option of making a gift to the UW and BUF organizations specifically or they may designate their gift to a favorite initiative. The campaign runs through March 30.

"It's important to support the Black United Fund and United Way because they fund important initiatives in our local community," said Julie Vulaj, director of annual giving. "We're counting on the generosity of OU employees to make a difference."

All employees should have received a packet via campus mail last week. The packet contains a letter encouraging employee support, an informational sheet about UW funding, UW and BUF brochures, pledge cards for each and a return envelope.

For employees interested in using payroll deduction, please note that your gift can be made in equal installments for a maximum of 10 months. The Payroll Department must receive the pledge form by Sunday, March 10. In this case, the pledge will be fulfilled by Dec. 31.

Last year, 146 employees contributed \$19,821 to United Way and 57 employees donated \$4,545 to the Black United Fund.

This year's OU committee has more than 35 years of combined service to United Way. The members are David Downing, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Bill Keane, associate professor in the Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Leadership; John Klemanski, professor in the Department of Political Science; Susan Russell, office assistant in the School of Health Sciences; Joel Russell, professor in the Department of Chemistry; Mary Beth Snyder, vice president for Student Affairs; and Vulaj.

For more information or to obtain another packet, contact Vulaj at (248) 370-3700, extension 1693, or [vulaj@oakland.edu](mailto:vulaj@oakland.edu).

### SUMMARY

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Created by CareTech Administrator ([webservices@caretechsolutions.com](mailto:webservices@caretechsolutions.com)) on Wednesday, February 20, 2002  
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