

September is for serving those in need

By **DAVID A. COOK**
President

August of this year was a month devoted to political battles. September of this year is a month devoted to charity.

Much of last month was dedicated to putting a stop to “Right-to-Work-for-Less” by gathering signatures on petitions and submitting them to the Secretary of State. We also spent significant time fighting to preserve the St. Louis minimum wage, heartlessly lowered after months of workers earning higher wages by politicians in Jefferson City. The types of political fights we often engage in are issues that impact hard-working people on the job.

But in September our time is being spent somewhere else. While we remain vigilant on the political front, Local 655 is spending much of September doing something that unions often don’t talk about enough: Raising money to improve communities today.

Many average Missourians probably read about our fight against “Right-to-Work-for-Less,” but fewer Missourians will probably read that last week Local 655 alone raised nearly \$60,000 to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Many Missourians probably heard local Labor leaders discussing the cruel slashing of the St. Louis minimum wage, but those same Missourians may not know that Local 655 will also be raising thousands of dollars to fight Sickle Cell Anemia next week.

We do not simply write a check to these worthy causes and move on. No, we hold



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events designed to generate awareness as well as revenue from the general public and generous donors. Organized Labor doesn’t like to brag about itself. We tend to see these kinds of events and commitments as simply another part of our mission, not an extraordinary action that needs special recognition.

Improving our communities and partnering with organizations seeking to make a better world is at the core of Labor’s mission. While this commitment never stops, it is this month that best highlights just how much we try to do to make the world a better place.

The UFCW partnership with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society has helped raise a staggering \$80 million-plus to directly fund research for new treatment and cures. Just last year, I was honored to receive the Roland B. Scott Award from Faces of Our Children for Local 655’s hard work in raising money to fight Sickle Cell Anemia at our annual barbecue.

When disasters strike, like the hurricanes that slammed into Texas and Florida, UFCW rallies the troops and asks local unions to donate funds to help thousands of impacted partners get back on their feet. We do this without thought, because it is simply the right thing to do.

We march in the Komen Walk to benefit breast cancer research and awareness, we participate in the Pride Parade to show our commitment to equality for all workers, we give generously to \$5 for the Fight to help support union families when workers fall on hard times.

Every single day, labor unions across this country fight for better communities and better lives. Local 655 is proud to do its part.

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TWICE MONTHLY
REPORT FOR

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MEMBERS &
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Local 655 reaches personal best, raises \$60K to benefit Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

Local 655 once again topped the previous year’s fundraising total at its annual Joe Pretti Memorial Golf Tournament benefitting the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS).

This year, the tournament raised nearly \$60,000 to benefit LLS. At the request of UFCW, the funds are spent exclusively on research for treatment and cures of leukemia and other types of blood cancers.

Since UFCW’s partnership with LLS began about 30 years ago, UFCW locals and the International Union have donated more than \$80 million to fight this illness that takes far too many lives every single year.

According to LLS officials, the contributions of UFCW have completely reversed survival rates of leukemia in children. The disease once meant a less than 10 percent chance of survival for young children. After years of research and new treatments, it now means that children have more than a 90 percent chance of survival.

“When you see what we’ve been able to ac-

complish with dedicated efforts to raise these funds, it’s truly astonishing,” said President David Cook. “Our goal at this tournament every year is to raise more than we did the year before, and so far, that’s exactly what we have done. I could not be prouder of this local and the work we have done to benefit LLS.”

The tournament is named for Joe Pretti, a former Local 655 Union Representative who died as a result of Leukemia. Pretti’s family also participates every year in the tournament.

THE GOOD DEEDS CONTINUE

Local 655 will also participate in ‘Light the Night’ to be held in Forest Park on Saturday, Sept. 23. Our union partners will collaborate with partners of UFCW Local 88 in for this wonderful event that directly benefits LLS. Any Local 655 partner who would like to join our walking team or simply donate to LLS should visit our Facebook page for more information.



To watch a video on the long and incredible partnership between UFCW and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, visit ufcw655.org/ufcwlls.

UFCW Local 655 had a great turnout of Union Proud partners for the 2017 Labor Day Parade!



THE JOE PRETTI MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society was an incredible success raising nearly \$60,000! Thanks to the efforts of these staffers, partners and everyone who helped.



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