OUR CORE VALUES

The mission of United Way of St. Joseph County, Inc. (UWSJC) is “To improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities” in an efficient and accountable manner that unites the community on behalf of, and for, the people of St. Joseph County.

This critical role requires that all of us involved in the UWSJC, who foster such an essential public good, must assume the responsibility of earning public trust. As a leader in the health and human services sector, and as a major resource to the people of St. Joseph County, we must build trust through all that we do. This bond of trust goes far beyond legal or regulatory requirements to include our core values and ethics.

To fulfill this special role, the following core values provide the foundation on which we base our actions and decisions. We strive for:

1. INTEGRITY: We act with integrity that inspires the highest trust.
   - We stand “united” in the relentless pursuit of instilling and promoting public confidence and trust.
   - We maintain the highest standards of excellence and accountability, including prudent use of finances, and fair, accurate, and honest disclosures of information.

2. IMPACT: We make a positive difference and have a measurable impact of enduring consequence.
   - We improve lives.
   - We are accountable that our work will create sustainable change.
   - We are committed to a United Way that is relevant to our community, its people and the times.

3. VOLUNTEERISM: We are relevant and effective through the spirit of volunteerism.
   - We believe that the most powerful form of philanthropy is through community volunteerism.
   - We believe that the most effective modes of service and standards of excellence are created through the leadership and mobilization of volunteers.

4. INCLUSIVENESS: We are strong only when we are inclusive.
   - We believe in a movement built from the rich diversity and gifts of all people.
   - We act in ways that respect the dignity, uniqueness, and intrinsic worth of every person in our community: recipients of benefits, the donors, our own staff and families, boards, volunteers and collaborative impact partners.

5. LEADERSHIP: We provide leadership for community building to effect positive change.
   - We are effective educators and conveners of significant issues bringing the community together to promote individual well being and the common good.
   - We are leaders of a process that multiplies the impact of people’s innate desire and capacity to care for one another.
   - We help transform visions of compassion and giving into dynamic reality.

__________________________  ______________________
Signature                          Date

__________________________
Printed Name

*Adopted by UWSJC staff on 2/21/05
S:\BOARD\Governing Documents\Core Values.doc