United Way Kick-Off Welcome

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Good afternoon, and welcome to the kick-off of Western Michigan University's 2012 United Way campaign.

This is an exciting year for the Kalamazoo area. The local United Way has merged with the Battle Creek organization to form the United Way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region. As such, WMU is now a part of the second largest United Way agency in Michigan.

Our campus goal this year is $300,000, the same amount as last year. I expect--as in the past--our University will give generously to help make the greater Kalamazoo area a better place to live, learn and work.

The United Way helps identify the common threads in education, income and health and brings together the right partners to address them. For example, giving just $1 a week provides 20 low-income patients with round-trip bus fare to necessary doctor’s appointments. Five dollars a week sends a child in foster care to a week of residential summer camp. And $10 a week ensures that a senior citizen would never be without life-saving utilities like heat.

I hope you'll join me in supporting the United Way and investing in the future of this great community. Thank you.