

Region raises \$125,000 for local United Ways

By IRENE GENTLE
The Champion

Proving that sometimes bigger really is better, a team of Halton Region employees have managed to raise the bar when it comes to charitable contributions.

The dedicated band managed to generate a whopping \$125,000 during the Region's annual corporate campaign for The United Way.

The big cheque marks a 27.5 per cent increase over the Region's previous efforts, a still impressive \$90,000.

"This committee went way above and beyond what has happened in the past," said Regional Chair Joyce Savoline.

The Region's workplace campaign has been on a roll, raking in about \$400,000 over the past four years.

The payoff came when Halton's United Way committee gathered at regional council recently for a cheque presentation.

On hand to receive the donation was Julia Dumanian, executive director of the Oakville United Way.

The Oakville United Way handles the regional account on behalf of all the United Ways in Halton.

"How successful. How incredible," said an overcome Ms Dumanian as she looked

over the donation. "These are tremendous dollars."

The Region's tally represented the largest single fundraising increase of any workplace campaign, said Ms Dumanian.

"Hats off to you," she said. "You're probably one of the single most energetic and enthusiastic teams."

The Region's contribution was the second highest of all corporate campaigns in Halton, coming in just behind the Ford plant in Oakville.

The money was raised through a variety of events, including Ms Savoline's golf tournament, which netted \$60,000 all by itself.

The rest of the money was scraped up in smaller doses, through bake and craft sales and two Casino Niagara trips.

Overall, \$3 million was raised by a number of corporate campaigns throughout Halton's four municipalities.

More than 50 agencies and 75 programs will receive money thanks to that fundraising effort.

Even so, the need continues, said Ms Dumanian. "We still have a huge job out there. Our community is still vulnerable. Together we can create a healthier community."



Joyce Savoline

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Dateline

• from DATELINE on page 16

chocolate and vanilla wafer cookies door-to-door.

The Halton branch of the Victorian Order of Nurses hosts **Special Steps Program Orientation** at its office, 2370 Speers Rd., in Oakville from 6 to 9 p.m. The six-hour course designed to assist volunteers and students to work with people with Alzheimer's disease and/or related disorders and their family members will

continue February 8. For more information or to register, call Joanne McMeekin or Linda Pinkney at 827-8800.

Women's barbershop chorus **A Cappella Showcase** offers free 'how to sing' lessons. The group meets for rehearsals Mondays at Milton Alliance Church, 2850 Derry Rd., at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call the hot line at 876-4093.

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