

United Way's million dollar goal realized

Donations flood in over final days of campaign

Steve LeBlanc

CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

As the United Way Milton's campaign closure drew near, Shawn Saulnier's optimism grew.

Having thrown out a 100 gifts of \$1,000 challenge with about a month remaining, the campaign co-chair — along with wife Bridget — felt certain that the \$1-million goal would be achieved.

All that was needed was a sense of teamwork.

"I was encouraged day after day," said Shawn. "There were people giving thousands of dollars and feeling they hadn't done much. I'd say 'That's all you need to do.'"

That late surge of generos-

ity brought the United Way Milton's campaign to a record-breaking \$1,002,312 — a feat celebrated at the Mattamy National Cycling Centre Friday evening.

Rockin' Rob and Jojo and the Chintos closed out the night with a rendition of the Bare Naked Ladies' If I Had a Million Dollars — a fitting selection for the event's celebratory air.

"I couldn't be more proud," said United Way Milton CEO Kate Holmes, who said this year's tally — a roughly \$90,000 increase over the previous campaign — will allow her organization to extend its reach and impact in Milton.

Redirecting praise onto the representatives of the 26 agencies the United Way supports in town — which ultimately benefits 25,000 Miltonians — Bridget said, "It's astonishing how much volun-



United Way Milton volunteers and supporters hold up the placards Friday night to signify this year's campaign total.

Graham Paine / Metroland West Media Group

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