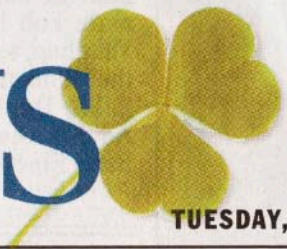




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The Aurora Beacon News



TUESDAY, MARCH 17,

AU

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Matching money will aid United Way

Dunham Fund pledges to boost emergency assistance

By **Marissa Amoni**
FOR THE BEACON NEWS

Want to double your money? So do two local organizations.

The Dunham Fund is partnering with the Fox Valley United Way to feed and house individuals and families hurt by the tough

FACING THE CRISIS

an ongoing series on how
the economy is affecting us

economy, and will match your contribution dollar for dollar up to \$100,000.

The returns you'll see are priceless.

Your one dollar turns into two dollars and goes toward area programs that assist those in need of food and shelter. Hesus House and the Aurora Area Interfaith Food

❖ Turn to **MONEY, A2**

Emergency aid

- What: Dunham Emergency Assistance Fund, offering dollar-for-dollar match for donations to help needy individuals and families
- To contribute or for information: Fox Valley United Way, 40 W. Downer Place, Aurora; 630-896-4636; www.uwfoxvalley.org.



DONNELL COLLINS / FOR THE BEACON

Fire engines 601 and 602 should have been retired ago, but the Aurora Township Fire Department must continue to use them despite the fact that neither engine has passed a pump test in a couple of years. Trucks can only be used as personnel carriers and to fight structure fires.

MONEY

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Pantry are two of the local agencies that could receive assistance.

No more than 20 percent of the fund's total value will be awarded to any one organization.

"We are just trying to recognize the current economic climate and help," said Robert Vaughan, executive director of the Dunham Fund.

The Dunham Fund Board of Advisors established the Dunham Emergency Assistance

Fund to be administered by the Fox Valley United Way as a way to "join hands" and "lend a hand" to local citizens.

The Dunham Fund is a private foundation that started in 2006 after the death of area businessman and philanthropist John C. Dunham.

Typically, the fund contributes to educational endeavors "that can effect positive change in the Aurora area," but the board decided to go "off mission" because of the current financial crisis, Vaughan said. Staying on course is "hard to do when kids come to school hungry," he said.

Vaughn said the emergency

assistance fund is looking for potential donors to step up to the plate.

"I think people are still very generous," he said.

The Dunham Fund promises a seed grant of \$50,000 to the Fox Valley United Way along with the challenge grant of \$100,000; total assistance to be distributed by the end of the year could be \$250,000 if the challenge grant is met. Both organizations are reaching out for donations from trade unions and local companies whose members or employees might be affected by the economy.

"A lot of union members are

out of work; they could be recipients as well," Vaughn said.

The Dunham Fund partnered with the Fox Valley United Way to take advantage of United Way's expertise in identifying those nonprofit agencies providing food and shelter services to those "most in need" and in efficiently administering the distribution of the grants.

"There are plenty of existing programs in the area," said Michael Meyer, CEO of Fox Valley United Way. He said they are working with the Dunham Fund to identify a list of nonprofits and the money will go where there are the greatest needs.

"There is no shortage of need," Meyer said.

A breakfast at the Paramount Theatre on March 23 will announce the partnership. Aurora Mayor Tom Weisner is to address the issue of emergency assistance in the community and efforts to provide the basic needs of food and shelter to those most in need.

Call the Fox Valley United Way at 630-896-4636. Contributions to the emergency fund can be made directly to the Fox Valley United Way, 40 W. Downer Place. Online contributions may be made at www.uwfoxvalley.org.
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