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Jamestown BPU “Cents for St. Susan’s” Drive Raises Record Amount, Thanks to the Community

Jamestown Board of Public Utilities (BPU) volunteers and sponsors of the BPU’s Cents for St. Susan’s campaign met today to announce that, the total amount raised this year surpassed the 2017 level by about \$2,662.84, for a total of \$20,009.54 raised. The St. Susan fund raiser, conducted annually by the BPU, brings the 19-year campaign total raised to \$215,491.39.

Personnel representing major campaign sponsors were on hand for the announcement, including: KeyBank at the \$2,000 level; Alfie’s Restaurant, Asplundh, Boyle Motor Sales, Burgett and Robbins Attorneys, Century 21/Turner Brokers, Chautauqua Chemicals Co., Inc., Falconer Printing and Design, Inc., Freed Maxick Accountants, The Legend Group with Lou Deppas, National Fuel, Northwest Bank, Shults Auto Group, Slone-Melhuish Insurance, Weinberg Financial Group and Wright, Wright and Hampton Attorneys, all at the \$500 level. The Jamestown Post Journal and the Media One Stations provided generous media coverage.

BPU General Manager David Leathers thanked all major sponsors as well as those people in the community who contributed to the success of the fund drive.

“We never set a goal for this campaign, hoping that the community will come forth in the best way it can in any given year,” said David L. Leathers, BPU General Manager. “This year is the first campaign in which we reached just over \$20,000. This fund raising goal reflects a significant level of community support for which we are extremely grateful.”

“We had enormous help from our major sponsors again this year as well as from many local residents who contributed through the mail, dropped coins in canisters around the community and donated hundreds of redeemable cans and bottles,” added BPU Communications Coordinator Becky Robbins who organizes the campaign. “The BPU and our sponsors are happy to help St. Susan Center feed the increased numbers of visitors to the Center again this year.”

St. Susan Executive Director Jeffrey Smith added, “The St. Susan Center to date this year, as of June 30, has served 59,414 meals, at a rate of one meal per person per day. This number compares to 58,093 meals served by June 30, 2017.”

“We are grateful to the Jamestown BPU and all its campaign sponsors for helping us feed our guests at the soup kitchen,” continued Smith. “Our meal numbers increase each year and we thank all of you for assisting us in meeting this challenge.”

Smith explained that, for the third year in a row, St. Susan Center volunteers and staff have provided meals for the summer playground programs in the City. In addition, the soup kitchen provides a daily dinner for the U-Can Mission residents.

The BPU has organized annual “Cents for St. Susan’s” campaigns since 2000 as a way to serve the community. Major sponsors make up the largest segment of the fund drive, but substantial amounts are raised through mail-in gifts from customers, local businesses and spare change contributed in the nearly

75 canisters placed around the community each April - July. Significant amounts were raised again this year through tag days conducted at Walmart and Brigiotta's, through donations of redeemable bottles and cans and through a hot dog sale organized by BPU employee volunteers. Businesses permitting canister placement at their facilities make a big difference in the campaign.

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