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Jamestown BPU "Cents for St. Susan's" Campaign Raises Record \$14,185 for Soup Kitchen

Jamestown Board of Public Utilities (BPU) employees and major donors gathered Friday to announce that the total amount raised in the 2013 BPU Cents for St. Susan's campaign set a record at \$14,185 to benefit St. Susan Center. The soup kitchen is located at 42 Water Street in the Gateway Center Building.

The amount of money contributed in 2013 brings the total amount raised, in thirteen years of BPU campaigns, to \$125,214.93.

Personnel representing major campaign sponsors were on hand for the announcement, including: KeyBank, Alfie's Restaurant, Allied Alarm Services, Asplundh, Boyles Motor Sales, Century 21/Turner Brokers, DFT Communications, Falconer Printing and Design, Inc., Farm Fresh Foods, Freed Maxick Accountants, Lake County Dodge Chrysler Jeep of Jamestown, The Legend Group with Lou Deppas, Jamestown Savings Bank, Media One Group, National Fuel, the Jamestown Post-Journal, Valu Hearing Services, Weinberg Financial Group and Whit Russell.

BPU General Manager David Leathers greeted the major sponsors and thanked them for making the fund drive a success.

"We hoped to raise \$13,000 in 2013," stated Leathers, "and we are happy to know that, with help from our major sponsors as well as from all the people who contributed through the mail, on their bills and in canisters throughout the community, we were able to surpass \$14,000, which is a record for this drive."

Becky Robbins, BPU communications coordinator who directs the utility drive, noted that, in addition to the tremendous contributions by major donors, canister collections and media coverage were especially helpful in this year's fund drive.

"Thanks to all the people in the community who were able to assist us in this year's campaign," said Robbins. "St. Susan Center faces increased numbers of visitors each year. The BPU is proud to be involved in raising money to help people in our City who need a healthy meal."

St. Susan Center Executive Director Sue Colwell expressed gratitude to the BPU and to the Cents for St. Susan's donors for providing operational support to the Center.

"St. Susan Center continues to serve more and more visitors at the soup kitchen each year," said Colwell. "We try to meet the need through various events and activities initiated by volunteers and groups from throughout the community. The BPU's 'Cents for St. Susan's' fund drive provides a significant portion of income for the soup kitchen."

The BPU has organized thirteen annual "Cents for St. Susan's" campaigns. Major sponsors comprise a large segment of the fund drive, but substantial amounts are raised through mail-in gifts from customers and local businesses and spare change contributed in the nearly 100 canisters placed around the community each spring.

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