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CHARITABLE GIVING

Tax form checkoff benefits United Way Fund

ADRIAN — Local taxpayers donated \$1,216.50 to Lenawee United Way for the 2010 tax year through a new option on their state income returns, the organization announced Monday.

In 2009, a new line item was included on the Michigan state income tax form, allowing taxpayers to donate all or part of their Michigan tax returns to the United Way Fund. The United Way Fund was created to help assist low- to moderate-income families in Michigan with basic needs such as food, clothing, utilities and shelter.

Local contributions will be used to provide utility assistance to families in need through the Community Action Agency. "This year, every cent of utility assistance is precious, with major cuts from funders across the board," Burt Fenby, Lenawee County director of the Community Action Agency, said in a news release. "We are grateful to Lenawee United Way and the donors who contributed to this fund through the United Way Fund on their Michigan tax returns."

"Many Lenawee County residents are struggling with the basic needs in life," said Amy Palmer, executive director of Lenawee United Way. "The No. 1 need requested by callers to our 211 call center is electric bill payment assistance, and it is also consistently our No. 1 unmet need. We are grateful for these generous contributions from local residents that will be used by Community Action Agency to ensure that local residents aren't living without electric and gas service this winter."

For more information about Lenawee United Way, visit lenaweeway.org.