Money raised for the Gothenburg United Fund Inc. stays in the community.

That's a big reason to donate to the fund that gives money to 11 different agencies in the community and Dawson County, according to United Fund president Angie Nichols.

Nichols noted that four of the groups who receive funds are in the county and "help people in our community."

This year, United Fund board members hope to raise $21,700 to support the agencies which is a 5.8% increase over last year's amount of $20,500.

The Gothenburg Ministerial Association re-joined the list of 11 agencies who asked for and will receive money in 2013-14.

Nichols said Larry Viter is the chair of the association of local ministers who help people with travel emergencies or who have trouble paying rent, utility bills or buying food or who have other needs.

United Fund's annual campaign will begin this week when donor brochures are mailed to each Gothenburg household.

A freewill donation meal on Sunday, Oct. 13, at the Gothenburg Senior Center serves as the official campaign kickoff.

Money will come not only from individual resident pledges but also through businesses and fund raisers.

Baldwin Filters, Nichols said, is the front-runner in contributions.

Other fund-raisers throughout the year, including a soup and pie supper during winter sports and a dog-and-jog run during Harvest Festival, add to the United Fund total.

**KICKOFF LUNCHEON**

The Gothenburg United Fund Inc. will host its annual kickoff luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Senior Center on Sunday, Oct. 13.

The menu includes ham balls, cheesy potatoes, green beans and dessert bars.

The free-will donation meal kicks off the 2013-14 United Fund campaign.

To make a donation to the Gothenburg United Fund, fill out the brochure received in the mail and send it back with a payment.

If an address gets missed by the mailing, donations can be sent to Gothenburg United Fund Inc., Box 494, Gothenburg, NE, 69138.

For additional information or to volunteer with the United Fund, contact Nichols at 537-3684.

ebarrett@gothenburgtimes.com

308-537-3636

## UNITED FUND AGENCIES

■ **American Lutheran Church food pantry**—A service that provides non-perishable food to local families in need.

■ **Building Blocks Child Care Center and Preschool**—A day care and preschool that offers a safe learning environment to children 6 weeks to 13 years old.

■ **Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska**—A home-based Head Start program that serves age- and income-eligible preschool children and their families.

■ **Dawson/Gosper County CASA**—A volunteer-driven organization of court-appointed volunteers who advocate for children who have been abused or neglected.

■ **Dawson/Gosper County American Red Cross**—A chapter of the national organization which offers services to help prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies.

■ **Family Advocacy Network**—A child-friendly center that helps provide immediate response to child abuse and sexual assault victims.

■ **Gothenburg Ministerial Association**—A local group of ministers who provide assistance to area residents in need of utilities, rent, food, clothing, medical care, child-care supplies, temporary housing and emergency travel.

A Community United.

■ **Gothenburg GED Program**—An educational service that helps students successfully complete requirements to earn the equivalent of a high school diploma.

■ **Gothenburg Senior Citizens Center Inc.**—This non-profit organization provides meals and other services to seniors, helping them maintain their independence.

■ **Gothenburg TeamMates**—A school-based mentoring program that pairs adult volunteers with students.

■ **Parent-Child Center**—A comprehensive assistance program for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse.