

Economy Won't Dampen United Way's Goal *by Mike Hall*

Topeka Capital-Journal

September 7, 2001

Being named chairman of the 2001 campaign of the United Way of Greater Topeka has been a greater challenge than Greg Fankhauser

realized when he accepted the volunteer job.



With the slumping economy, more demands than ever exist for the services of the agencies funded by the United Way. Because of the slumping economy, fewer people are able to contribute. Some local

businesses have closed their doors in the past year, and others have downsized.

"We knew this year was going to be a challenge, quite frankly,"

Fankhauser told about 600 people at the kickoff ceremony Thursday.

Fankhauser, president of Community National Bank, and other United Way volunteers aren't discouraged. They set a goal of \$6.2 million for this year's campaign -- \$200,000 higher than last year's \$6 million goal, which was achieved.

The kickoff was at noon in the Topeka Performing Arts Center, where volunteers from a number of Topeka employers



gathered to be entertained and fed before spreading out across the city to work for the 34 agencies funded by United Way. Their "Day of Caring" activities continue today.

At TPAC, volunteers saw some of the city's business and government leaders called onstage to participate in improvisational comedy, led by Joel Zeff, a nationally known comedian/motivational speaker from Dallas. The crowd also heard from Rick Beyer, Kansas secretary of human resources, on the state campaign and from U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Ronald Reck on the combined federal campaign.

