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More reason to help

The United Way of Linn County serves a vital function, so it is a cause for concern that the current fund drive has reached less than half its goal.

There is a good explanation: Sept. 11 and its aftermath, especially its effect on people's charitable donations. And there is plenty of time for mid-valley people who regularly participate in this fund drive to do so again this year and put it over the top.

The United Way of Linn County helps support roughly two dozen mid-valley organizations that all have one thing in common. They exist to take care of needs and problems in our communities that, as individuals, most of us don't have the time to worry over or the resources to do anything about.

5038 Last week's report by Children First of Oregon recounted some of the problems children in this state face as they grow up. From the Boys & Girls Clubs to the Salvation Army, United Way supports the very groups - outside the family - that try to do the most to combat those problems and help kids grow up.

The economy is slumping and the jobless rate is up. That means more kids need help. And it's all the more reason for people who can afford it to give the United Way their support. (hh)

■ You can reach D-H Editor Hasso Hering at (541) 812-6097. You may listen to Hering's commentary at 6:45 a.m. and 5:45 p.m. most weekdays on KGAL, AM 1580.