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**Success by six**  
**Three area United Ways tackle new childhood development initiative**

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LA PORTE - The goals are lofty, but the tenacity of those involved has the Success by Six initiative set for just that - success. Currently in the development process by the United Ways in Lake, Porter and La Porte Counties, Success by Six aims to ensure that all children from birth to age 6 have the proper care and experiences to succeed.

Friday marked the official start of the collaboration - Ken Allen of Kenneth J. Allen & Associates in Valparaiso presented a check for \$5,000 to the United Way of La Porte County as the organization's partnering grant. Both Lake and Porter Counties' United Ways found equal partner grants as well.

\$60,000 was provided by the Lilly Foundation with the stipulation that each United Way find partner matches. With the donations collected, United Way now has \$75,000 total to plan the comprehensive regional early childhood development initiative.

"Success by Six will cover every developmental aspect from birth to school age, including safety, health, social development, school readiness and literacy," explained Jan Katz, planning coordinator of Success by Six and founder of Imagination Station. "It's really exciting."

Her planning began July 1 and will reach completion Nov. 30.

"The delivery of these services is set to begin in early 2010," said Bill Hanna, executive director of United Way of La Porte County.

Allen, who, with his wife Nina, contributes financially to several local childhood initiatives, including the Kinderprint program, described the impetus to provide support to the Success by Six project.

"It comes down to trying to prepare our kids for a successful future," he said.

Katz further expounded.

"It's the big picture for what northwest Indiana needs to do to prepare kids to be successful students and citizens," she said.

Katz will welcome experts from all sectors during her planning process.

"This is really a big undertaking," Katz said. "It's really about improving civilization."

Fred McNulty, board vice chair of the United Way of La Porte County, was on hand for the check presentation as well, and added his thoughts on the initiative.

"It's about economic development: providing good prenatal care, preventing violence and abduction and hopefully reducing the high school drop-out rate," he said.

Allen agreed.

"It really is linked to the success of the community economically," he said. "It all starts at the very beginning - it comes down to prevention. Children are a long term investment."



From left, Fred McNulty, Ken Allen, Jan Katz and Bill Hanna stand in front of the La Porte Courthouse with a \$5,000 check from Kenneth J. Allen & Associates, presented to the United Way for its new Success by Six initiative.



Jan Katz, Ken Allen and Bill Hanna discuss their thoughts on the new Success by Six initiative Friday outside the La Porte County Courthouse.

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