

UCSD kicks off 1987 United Way/Chad campaign

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The helping hand of United Way/CHAD was brought close to home to University of California, San Diego employees during the November 13 kickoff to the 1987 campaign at the Mandell Weiss Center for the Performing Arts.

Bob Bourquin, 33, a respiratory therapist at the UCSD Medical Center and a victim of cystic fibrosis, was featured in this year's United Way campaign film, narrated by actor and honorary United Way chairman Cliff Robertson, who is also a native La Jollan.

After the film, Bourquin spoke to the group about his fight against the disease that afflicts children and young adults and has taken the lives of many of his friends. Today, thanks to medical research funded by United Way/ CHAD, which has developed better treatment methods, many people with the disease now live to adulthood.

Only very recently, scientists believe they have discovered the chromosome that carries the defective gene causing the illness. If this proves true, research can find a way to correct it.

"As one who directly benefits from United Way, I'd like to thank you for being here," Bourquin said. "United Way and the people who give to this organization are critical to the success of people with cystic fibrosis."

Quelda Wilson, UCSD assistant vice chancellor, personnel, commended employees for the \$227,000 collected for United Way last year. UCSD led all the University of California campuses in the amount of funds collected for United Way/CHAD. Wilson encouraged employees to increase participation by a minimum of 15 percent this year.

Paul Richey, United Way general campaign chair, thanked UCSD employees for their community involvement. According to Richey, as one of the largest employers in San Diego County, UCSD is important in assisting the United Way's efforts to raise \$24 million this year. This will enable United Way/CHAD agencies and services to assist 600,000 or one in every three residents of San Diego.

UCSD's United Way/CHAD campaign ends in a victory celebration December 16.

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