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For Immediate Release

United Way Partnering with Community Foundation to Simplify Review Process for United Way Agencies

(Kansas City, MO)--- Over the years, United Way and the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation have worked together on various projects designed to help those in need in our community and bring about positive change. The latest collaboration is aimed at reducing paperwork for nonprofit agencies receiving United Way funding and encouraging more nonprofit agencies to sign up for DonorEdge® and maintain an updated profile.

DonorEdge® is an online resource designed by the Community Foundation to provide high quality, comprehensive information about local charities not available anywhere else. For example, funders and individuals can go to www.donoredge.org and check the financial stability and effectiveness of more than 600 nonprofit organizations. A profile with a Check Mark icon means the information is up to date and has been verified by Foundation staff.

For a number of years, agencies supported by United Way and participating in the Community Foundation's DonorEdge® program had to fill out separate forms detailing their financial status, organizational structure and board governance. They were required to update the information each year, providing a snapshot of their mission, key programs and overall stability. While United Way and the Community Foundation recognized there was some duplication, each felt their forms helped to insure the nonprofit agencies were sound and that donors' money was being invested wisely.

Now, with the merger of four Kansas City area United Ways into one organization, the United Way of Greater Kansas City (UWGKC) has taken a second look at its agency certification process. Volunteers have streamlined the process so that United Way agencies only have to go through full recertification every three years. Starting next year United Way will begin using the Community Foundation's DonorEdge® profiles for recertification of United Way agencies during the interim two years. The profiles will give United Way the updated information it needs to verify the financial and organizational stability of funded agencies, while reducing administrative time and paperwork for the agencies involved. The certification process is separate and distinct from United Way's agency review process which is conducted by community volunteers who examine program outcomes and effectiveness while making funding decisions.

Nearly 87% of the 129 UWGKC agencies already have DonorEdge® profiles with the Community Foundation. The other 13% will be given the option of creating profiles, or continuing to file United Way recertification paperwork every year.

UWGKC President and CEO, Susan Stanton says, "We appreciate the Community Foundation's willingness to share the information with United Way as we work to insure that donor dollars are wisely invested in the community. I believe that United Way's decision to accept updated DonorEdge® profiles will reduce costs and result in significant time savings for our partner agencies." Stanton added, "This agreement illustrates a continuing interest in collaboration between United Way of Greater Kansas City and the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation. We have a shared desire to work effectively and efficiently to make our community the best it can be."

Greater Kansas City Community Foundation President & CEO Laura McKnight says she is pleased to hear about United Way's decision to use DonorEdge® in its recertification of agencies. McKnight said, "DonorEdge® demonstrates transparency in a way that no other resource can, and that is essential in preserving America's trust in exempt entities. We are very excited about the collaboration with United Way and we believe this partnership will enable organizations to spend even more time working to improving the quality of life in our region."

United Way of Greater Kansas City helps fund more than 300 programs in the Kansas City area. UWGKC will begin using DonorEdge® for recertification of United Way agencies in 2008.

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