

For Immediate Release

April 24, 2009

United for Hope/United to Help Campaign Raises More Than \$2 Million for Local Emergency Assistance Needs In the Community

(Greater Kansas City)-----For thousands of Kansas City area people who are struggling to make ends meet because of the economic downturn, help is on the way. Together with United Way, more than a dozen local community foundations and hundreds of individuals have donated more than \$2 million to help people who have lost their jobs, are facing foreclosure or are having difficulty affording food, medicine and utilities. The money raised through the *United for Hope/United to Help* campaign will go to the Kansas City area network of emergency assistance programs that many in our community are turning to for help.

The money raised during the 40-day *United for Hope/United to Help* campaign will provide things like food, rent/mortgage/utility assistance, help with prescriptions and medical supplies, transportation assistance, job readiness/job search programs, and support of homeless and domestic violence shelters. Local nonprofit agencies are receiving many such requests for help right now. The money collected during the community-wide fundraising effort will allow front-line nonprofit agencies to help additional clients who they might otherwise be unable to serve.

Nearly 60 local agencies have applied for *United for Hope/United to Help* funding, saying they need the money to meet increased demand, to replace lost funding from other sources, or to expand services with additional staff or extended hours of operation. Teams of community volunteers are now reviewing the applications and will be making funding decisions over the next three weeks. The first checks will go out to agencies by May 8th, with another round of funding planned in August or September.

United Way of Greater Kansas City President & CEO Brent Stewart says, "The effort to help people affected by the economic crisis brought together organizations and individuals in our community who share a sense of caring and compassion for their fellow man. Everyone who made a donation to the *United for Hope/United to Help* campaign can rest assured that every dollar they gave will go to help people who are struggling to survive these tough economic times. We are pleased we can provide additional resources to Kansas City area nonprofit agencies that are working hard to help those in need during what for many is proving to be the biggest challenge of their lives."

The list of local foundations participating in this community-wide fundraising effort includes:

- George K. Baum Family Foundation
- W. J. Brace Charitable Trust – Bank of America, Trustee
- Dunn Family Foundation
- The Francis Family Foundation
- Greater Kansas City Community Foundation and its donors
- The H&R Block Foundation
- Hall Family Foundation
- Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City
- Jewish Heritage Foundation
- Jacob L. & Ella C. Loose Foundation
- Menorah Legacy Foundation
- REACH Healthcare Foundation

- The Sosland Foundation
- John W. and Effie E. Speas Memorial Trust – Bank of America, Trustee
- Sprint Foundation
- United Way of Greater Kansas City

Stewart said, “While the community outreach effort is officially over, we are hopeful that additional dollars will be forthcoming. We will welcome any other donations that come in and put them to work helping people. There is no doubt that the effects of the depressed economy will continue to be felt throughout the year. That is why we will be making a second round of grants to emergency assistance providers towards the end of the summer.”

Anyone who would still like to make a donation can do so online at www.unitedwaygkc.org or by writing a check. Those checks should be made payable to United Way and mailed to:

United for Hope/United to Help
c/o United Way
1080 Washington St.
Kansas City, MO 64105

United Way is also accepting donations by telephone. The number to call is (816) 559-4645.

In addition to the money raised through the *United for Hope/United to Help* campaign, United Way of Greater Kansas City today announced that it will also be receiving about \$370,000 in federal stimulus dollars to be used strictly for emergency assistance needs in the community. Those funds are coming from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and will be used to help people who need assistance with basic needs such as food and shelter. The federal stimulus money is expected to be in the hands of those nonprofit agencies approved for funding by this summer.

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