



October 7, 2009

United Way Distributes \$636,000 to Help Kansas City Area Nonprofits Struggling to Meet the Needs of Those Seeking Help

(Greater Kansas City)-----The economy may be improving, but it doesn't feel that way to tens of thousands across the metro area who are unemployed or are in danger of becoming homeless. Many of them have turned to local nonprofit agencies seeking food, health care and money to pay past-due rent or utility bills. The flood of people seeking help has put a strain on the staff and resources of many nonprofit agencies.

This week, United Way of Greater Kansas City and community partners awarded grants totaling \$636,000 to 15 Kansas City area nonprofit agencies providing front-line emergency assistance help to those affected by the economic downturn. The money comes from last spring's *United for Hope/United to Help* fundraising campaign, coordinated by United Way, which raised \$2.3 million to help people impacted by the economic crisis.

More than \$1.67 million of the money raised through *United for Hope/United to Help* went to 59 Kansas City area nonprofit agencies in May and was used for direct assistance to help people in crisis. The vast majority of the \$636,000 in *United for Hope/United to Help* dollars distributed this week is going to help front-line providers maintain or expand their capacity to meet the increased demand they are facing. The major exception is \$100,000 that went to the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation to be used for emergency assistance grants, provided on a case-by-case basis to families and individuals who don't qualify for other assistance programs and who have a caseworker working with them on an action plan to weather the crisis.

The recipients of the latest *United for Hope/United to Help* grants include:

- Bishop Sullivan Center \$ 44,500
- Community LINC \$ 49,027
- Community Services League \$ 34,010
- El Centro, Inc. \$ 49,600
- Episcopal Community Services \$ 50,000
- Greater Kansas City Community Foundation \$100,000
- Jewish Vocational Services \$ 50,000
- Mid America Assistance Coalition \$ 30,000
- Phoenix Family Housing \$ 42,000
- reStart \$ 39,600
- Riverview Health Services \$ 10,000
- SAFEHOME \$ 46,463
- Synergy Services \$ 47,000
- West Central Community Action Agency \$ 9,000
- Whatsoever Community Center \$ 34,800

The *United for Hope/United to Help* campaign was 40-day community-wide fundraising effort led by United Way of Greater Kansas City and 16 Kansas City area foundations. It was a response to the growing number of families affected by the economic downturn, many of whom have been forced to seek help from local nonprofit agencies for the first time in their lives.

For additional information, contact:

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