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**United Way Announces \$500,000 Fund for Olneyville Neighborhood**  
*Organization officially opens new offices with Block Party*

**Providence, RI** (June 21, 2008) – United Way of Rhode Island officially opens its new headquarters on Valley Street in Providence today with a neighborhood Block Party and the announcement of a special \$500,000 fund to support activities in the area.

“I know this sounds clichéd, but this truly is an historic day for United Way of Rhode Island,” said President and CEO Anthony Maione. “When we announced our intention to relocate after 30 years on the East Side of Providence, our stated goal was to find office space in an area where we could help serve as a catalyst in revitalizing the neighborhood. We believe we’re meeting that objective here in Olneyville. Our presence and this special fund are concrete examples of our commitment to having impact in the community.”

Maione said that \$100,000 will be available each year for the next five years to support special projects. This is in addition to the more than \$2.0 million United Way has committed to various organizations and activities in Olneyville from 2002 - 2009.

UWRI’s new office at 50 Valley Street was once known as Calender Mills, the site of the former Providence Bleaching, Dyeing and Calendering Company. The original building dates back to around 1845. The Patent Calender Company was established 1814 and was one of the first textile finishing companies in Providence.

“We’re proud to be part of the Olneyville neighborhood,” said John Warren, United Way of Rhode Island Board Chair and Chairman and CEO of Washington Trust Company. “This is an exciting place to be and we hope to learn from our new neighbors how we can better serve all the people of Rhode Island.”

The Block Party – scheduled to run from 10:00am to 3:00pm – will feature family activities, music and food.

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Students from the RiverzEdge Arts Project in Woonsocket, funded by UWRI, have created three murals depicting the key messages of the organization's new LIVE UNITED campaign: Give, Advocate and Volunteer. People attending the Block Party will be asked to add their own thoughts as to what LIVING UNITED means to them.

The Block Party will also feature the music of the Met School's Music One students and the "Infusion Experience" band, the Providence YMCA's "On the Move" inflatable obstacle course, free children's books from Books are Wings, face painting, and food from community restaurants. The event is happening on United Way of America's National Day of Action and culminates a Week of Action conducted by the United Way of Rhode Island that included staff and volunteers reading to students at the William D' Abate School and conducting mock employment interviews for soon to be graduates of the Year Up program.

United Way of Rhode Island (UWRI) has been working to improve the quality of life in Rhode Island for over 80 years. UWRI's mission is to mobilize the caring power of the community to improve the lives of people in need and address the issues Rhode Islanders care most about. Its goal is to create long-lasting changes that prevent problems from occurring. UWRI believes that all Rhode Islanders deserve the opportunity to have a better life, as when any one of us succeeds, we all succeed. It's what United Way refers to as advancing the common good. For more information, visit [www.uwri.org](http://www.uwri.org)