

Immediate Release

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United Way of R.I. gives \$11.4 million to 38 agencies *From Westerly to Woonsocket, funds paid annually for social services for 3 years*

Providence, RI (June 19, 2009) – United Way of Rhode Island is awarding more than \$11.4 million in community investments to be paid over a three-year period to 38 social and human services programs throughout the state.

The programs, which will receive financial support from UWRI annually between Jan. 2010 and Dec. 2012, specialize in such areas as safety net services, affordable housing, immigrant services, improving job skills, early childcare and after-school programs. They are located from Westerly to Woonsocket.

(Editors note: a complete list of the funded programs is attached.)

UWRI's grants complement the organization's longer-term strategic work to reduce homelessness and expand the stock of affordable housing; improve the quality and availability of early care and out-of-school time; increase the earning capacity of workers through job training and skill improvement; and offer general safety net services for those most in need.

“It's the generosity of our donors that makes these grants possible. Our volunteer review committees worked tirelessly studying proposals to decide where to best channel the funds to ensure they went to services where the dollars would have the most impact,” said UWRI President and CEO Anthony Maione. “The grant money is going to agencies where it will be used efficiently and effectively in our community.”

The grant application process began last winter when UWRI issued an open request for proposals to any 501 c 3 nonprofit in the state. In total, 128 programs applied requesting some \$42 million. Nearly 90 volunteers reviewed proposals during a six-week period in the spring, and then they made recommendations for funding to the UWRI Board of Directors.

“What makes this process difficult is that the need in today’s economy far surpasses the dollars we have to give,” said UWRI’s COO Armeather Gibbs. “We had many more agencies apply than we could accommodate; the process was extremely competitive. United Way and the many volunteers engaged in the review process, had to make some very difficult choices, and they had to reject some really good proposals.”

A complete list of those receiving grants from United Way’s Impact Groups can be found at www.LIVEUNITEDri.org.

About United Way of Rhode Island

United Way of Rhode Island has been working to improve the quality of life in Rhode Island communities 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. United Way’s goal is to create long-lasting changes that prevent problems from happening in the first place. We believe that all Rhode Islanders deserve the opportunity to have a better life, as when any one of us succeeds, we all succeed. At United Way, we refer to this as advancing the common good. For more information, visit www.LIVEUNITEDri.org.