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Support Offered to Nonprofits Looking to Merge/Consolidate

United Way announces Fund to provide support for organizations looking to combine operations

Providence, RI (March 11, 2008) – More than 100 leaders of Rhode Island’s nonprofit community will attend a briefing this morning in Warwick on the options available to them if they merge or consolidate operations.

The session is co-hosted by United Way of Rhode Island (UWRI) and The Rhode Island Foundation and features presentations from agency leaders who have experienced the merger and consolidation process including representatives from Greater Elmwood Neighborhood Services and the Elmwood Foundation that recently announced the merger of their groups. Warwick Mayor Scott Avedesian will welcome attendees to the event.

United Way also will announce this morning the second year of funding for its \$100,000 Merger and Consolidation Fund to supply financial support to human service agencies looking to merge or combine common operations in order to better serve their clients. A grant of \$45,000 from the Fund in 2007 helped spur the Elmwood mergers.

According to UWRI President and CEO Anthony Maione: “Given the potential impact of State budget cuts, it’s imperative that nonprofit organizations consider redirecting as much of their administrative costs as possible to serving their clients. Some organizations might be frustrated in doing so by the lack of funds needed to hire a consultant or retain the necessary legal representation to consider such options. Our Merger and Consolidation Fund is available to address this need in order to foster needed efficiencies in the nonprofit sector.”

Maione said that while Rhode Island’s population has remained constant, the number of charitable organizations in the State has grown to more than 3,500. National studies describe billions of dollars in duplicated services offered by non-profit agencies, all who compete for the same limited philanthropic dollars. Some of the duplications are in programs themselves; others are repetitive “backroom” functions, such as payroll or IT.

“The Rhode Island Foundation seeks to foster collaboration with and between our nonprofit partners,” said Carol Golden, executive vice president and chief philanthropy officer at The

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Rhode Island Foundation. “By working together, nonprofit organizations can work smarter and have far greater impact. The partnership between Greater Elmwood Neighborhood Services and the Elmwood Foundation is a great example, and the Foundation was very pleased to provide \$35,000 to support this partnership.”

Any two or more 501 c-3 human service organizations in the State considering a full organizational merger or a consolidation of administrative functions may apply for United Way funds. Special consideration will be given to those organizations whose mission aligns with United Way’s three focus issues: supporting children’s success in school, job skills development, affordable housing and reducing homelessness.

A copy of the Request for Proposal for United Way’s Merger and Consolidation Fund can be found on UWRI’s website, www.uwri.org.

Deadline for application is April 8, 2008. Recipients will be notified mid-May.

The sessions is being held at the Radisson Airport Hotel.

United Way of Rhode Island is dedicated to mobilizing the caring power of the community to improve the lives of people in need.

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