



NEWS RELEASE

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UWRI Poised to Move to New Headquarters *Relocating to Olneyville section of Providence after 30 years on historic East Side*

Providence, RI (May 22, 2008) – After months of planning, United Way of Rhode Island is making final preparations to relocate its headquarters from Wayland Square on the East Side of Providence to the former Calendar Mills building in the Olneyville Section of the Capital City.

“We’ve been here for 30 years,” said UWRI Vice President of Operations Angelo Miccoli who is leading the relocation efforts. “It has taken us weeks just to go through all the boxes and files we’ve accumulated over that time.”

In addition to decades old minutes from Board of Director’s meetings and campaign material, staff uncovered photos of the 229 Waterman Street building being constructed. The facility was donated to United Way in the mid-1970’s by FM Global.

To help with the material review process, UWRI established a Document Retention and Destruction Policy that set guidelines as to how long items should be retained.

“It’s easy to store something and forget about it,” noted Richard Voccio, UWRI’s Chief Financial Officer. “We needed to define reasonable guidelines that take into account legal requirements, as well as our practical needs and available storage space in our new building.”

In general under the policy, finance related items are to be kept for 10 years; other material seven. (Unless there is need to keep the files on a permanent basis.) A tracking and labeling system was developed with boxes marked for destruction on January 1 or July 1 of each year.

United Way also hired BetterShred, a recycling business operated by the Cranston ARC, to dispose of unneeded material. UWRI staffers filled dozens of “chewies” – the nickname given disposal bins after an employee contest to name the containers.

“Once the retention and destruction process began in earnest, “chewies” were a very valuable commodity,” Voccio said.

UWRI offices will be closed on Thursday, May 29, and Friday, May 30, to move the staff of 52 to their new offices. Walsh Movers has been retained by UWRI for the task.

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“We’re also pleased that in hiring Walsh Movers, we have the opportunity to support breast cancer research,” said Hank Sennott, UWRI’s Vice President of Communications.” Walsh donates a portion of the proceeds from the rental of “Pink Crates” used to pack items to support efforts to find a cure. United Way employees, as well as family members and friends have all been impacted by breast cancer, Sennott added.

While United Way staffers have been busy preparing to leave Wayland Square, their new home in Olneyville has been a hub of activity as developers Struever Brothers Eccles & Rouse and numerous sub contractors complete the renovation of what 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.

Participants in the YouthBuild program are assisting in the completion of the project by installing office furniture. YouthBuild is an alternative education and workforce-development program located in Olneyville that helps high school dropouts gain the literacy and job-readiness skills needed to make a successful transition into the workforce.

“This has been a great opportunity for our students,” said Andrew Cortes, Program Director of YouthBuild. “It shows once again that United Way is interested in being a partner, not just a funder.”

United Way has also been assisted in designing and preparing the new offices by Vision 3 Architects of Providence, and building and construction consultants Peregrine Group LLC of Rumford.

“When we announced our intention to move, our stated goal was to relocate to an area where we could help serve as a catalyst in revitalizing a neighborhood,” said UWRI President and CEO Anthony Maione. “We believe we’re meeting that objective in relocating our headquarters to Olneyville. This is a concrete example of our commitment to having impact in the community.

“We have enjoyed being a part of the Wayland Square neighborhood for the past 30 years and are looking forward to being active members of the Olneyville community in the years ahead.”

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