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## Immediate Release

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### UWRI, RIASPA, PawSox collect for summer learning programs *Free admission to McCoy on June 8 with supplies donation worth \$5 or more*

Providence (May 18, 2009) -- United Way of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Afterschool Plus Alliance (RIASPA) and the Pawtucket Red Sox have teamed up to collect learning supplies, refillable water bottles and sunscreen for five area summer learning programs servicing 750 school children.

On June 8, patrons gain entry to McCoy Stadium for free by bringing to that night's game brand new and unopened packages of pencils (regular and color) and pens, markers, composition notebooks/journals, paper (loose-leaf lined, construction and specialty), refillable water bottles, sunscreen, glue sticks and glue guns, and electric pencil sharpeners. The value of each donation should be \$5 or more to receive a free ticket.

Between May 25 and June 19, donations of the needed learning supplies can be dropped off at designated bins at the following places: United Way of Rhode Island, 50 Valley St., Providence, during regular weekday work hours, 9-4:30; Ben & Jerry's on the East Side of Providence at 237 Meeting St., Sunday-Thursday, 11 a.m. – 11 p.m., and Friday and Saturday, 11-midnight.)

Those volunteers who organize collections from friends, family and/or acquaintances will be entered in a drawing for four PawSox tickets to the July 9 game between the PawSox and the

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Buffalo Bisons. To be eligible for the drawing just drop off your collection of several of each of the items at United Way of Rhode Island's headquarters, at 50 Valley St., Providence, during weekday working hours, from 9 to 4:30 between May 25 and June 10.

United Way of Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Afterschool Plus Alliance (RIASPA) have teamed up for this volunteer effort, and they are asking for the following: Brand new packages of pencils (regular and color) and pens, markers, composition notebooks, paper (loose-leaf lined, construction and specialty), refillable water bottles, sunscreen, glue sticks and glue guns, and electric pencil sharpeners. The organizations that benefit are the Boys and Girls Club of Pawtucket, Pawtucket COZ, Connecting for Children and Families, Woonsocket, Providence Afterschool Alliance (PASA) and SCOPE Central Falls. For more information visit, [www.LIVEUNITEDri.org](http://www.LIVEUNITEDri.org) or call (401) 444-0749.

UWRI and RIASPA are trying to collect enough of each item for each of the 750 school-aged children to use throughout the summer months. All donations need to be newly bought, and no used items will be accepted.

“We want to raise awareness for the summer learning programs in our state and, at the same time, collect needed donations that are critical for these young people’s summer learning experience,” said Anthony Maione, President and CEO of United Way of Rhode Island. “We are grateful to the organizations and businesses who volunteered to be partners in this effort.”

The organizations benefiting are Boys and Girls Club of Pawtucket, Pawtucket COZ, Connecting for Children and Families, Woonsocket, Providence Afterschool Alliance (PASA) and SCOPE Central Falls.

On June 8, the PawSox will be taking on the Durham Bulls starting at 7:05.

For more information, please visit [www.LIVEUNITEDri.org](http://www.LIVEUNITEDri.org) or call (401) 444-0749.

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### **About RIASPA**

[Rhode Island Afterschool Plus Alliance](#) (RIASPA) is a statewide advocacy organization whose mission is to influence public policy to expand and support high quality afterschool programs so that Rhode Island's children and youth are inspired to learn, grow and prepared to lead productive lives. RIASPA was founded by, and is currently funded and housed by United Way of Rhode Island and is one of 38 statewide afterschool networks in the nation funded by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. Currently RIASPA has a broad-based network of over 400 individual members in Rhode Island. Participating organizations include direct afterschool providers, substance abuse task-forces, community groups serving youth during the afterschool hours, school personnel and state agencies, among others.

### **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](http://www.LIVEUNITEDri.org).

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