

## For immediate release



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Caption: Rev. Ed Farrell-Starbuck of the Congregation at Shepherd of the Valley United Methodist Church poses in the lobby of United Way of Rhode Island in Olneyville. The church donated \$500 to UWRI's Fund to Prevent Homelessness in R.I. UWRI matched it \$1-for-\$1 bringing the donation to \$1,000.

Photo by Keri Ducharme/United Way of RI

## Pastor's Discretionary fund donates \$1,000 to *United Way Fund to Prevent Homelessness in Rhode Island*

*Congregation at Shepherd of the Valley United Methodist Church supports initiative*

Hope, RI (Feb. 6) Rev. Ed Farrell-Starbuck on behalf of the Congregation at Shepherd of the Valley United Methodist Church donated \$1,000 to *UWRI's Fund to Prevent Homelessness in Rhode Island*.

United Way, which is matching donations dollar-for-dollar up to \$100,000 until March 31, doubled the church's donation of \$500. UWRI set up this special fund to respond to the urgent call to help people at risk of losing a roof over their head. One hundred percent of the contributions made to the Fund will be distributed directly to people who need assistance to meet rent, mortgage or utilities.

"I get calls to do exactly what the Fund is set up to do. It's a bonus that this donation will be matched, doubling its effectiveness," said Farrell-Starbuck. "As soon as I heard about the effort to keep people in their homes I knew I wanted to ask our Church Council to participate. There

was consensus and support from the congregation which generously supports the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.”

The goal of UWRI's Homelessness Prevention Fund is to keep people stable and out of the already overburdened shelter system. The money will help those hardest hit by the economic downturn and in need of assistance.

“We are pleased to see the faith-based community stepping forward and giving to help others in need in our state,” said UWRI President and CEO, Anthony Maione. “We are hopeful that many more Rhode Islanders will come together to help our neighbors in need by contributing to the Fund.”

All of the money contributed to the Fund will be distributed to people in need through some of the following agencies: Amos House, Bradford Jonnycake Center, East Bay Community Action Program, Family Resources Community Action, Salvation Army, Pawtucket Corps, Salvation Army, Providence Corps, WARM Shelter, Westbay Community Action Program, Wood River Health Services, Comprehensive Community Action Program, Crossroads R.I., Providence Neighborhood Agency Association members, Tri-Town Community Action Agency and South County Community Action.

### **How to Give**

Anybody can help support the *United Way Fund to Prevent Homelessness in Rhode Island*. Credit card contributions may be made by dialing 2-1-1 or online at [www.LIVEUNITEDri.org](http://www.LIVEUNITEDri.org) or by mailing a check payable to the *United Way Fund to Prevent Homelessness*, 50 Valley Street, Providence, RI 02909.

### **How to Get Help**

Anyone in need of assistance can dial 2-1-1 or visit [www.211ri.org](http://www.211ri.org), United Way's confidential, around-the-clock health and human services hotline staffed by information-referral professionals. In 2008, *United Way 2-1-1 in Rhode Island* received nearly 100,000 calls. 2-1-1, backed by a yearly commitment of \$500 thousand from United Way, is also supported by a grant from the Hasbro Children's Fund as well as additional funds from the state.

50 Valley Street  
Providence, RI 02909  
tel 401.444.0600  
fax 401.444.0635  
[www.LIVEUNITEDri.org](http://www.LIVEUNITEDri.org)



To qualify for assistance from this special fund a family or person should meet with the caseworker at one of the participating agencies. The caseworker will determine what other state, federal, or nonprofit assistance is also available to the family/individual. As demand for assistance is great, the general limit on assistance is \$1,200 per individual or family, although the caseworker has some discretion in very special cases. The money must be used to keep a person or a family in a home or an apartment. Participating agencies will pay bills on behalf of the persons requesting help. No money will go directly to families; the agency will pay bills to the appropriate vendor.

### **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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