



**ANTHONY MAIONE**, left, president and CEO of United Way of Rhode Island, and Steve Issa, president and CEO of Sovereign Bank Rhode Island.

## Homelessness fund gets donation from Sovereign

Sovereign Bank made a donation of \$10,000 to the newly formed United Way Fund to Prevent Homelessness in Rhode Island, a three-month awareness and fundraising effort.

"This generous donation from Sovereign is a home run for us," said Anthony Maione, president and CEO of United Way of Rhode Island. "This is very important money because it will go directly to keeping people out of shelters and in their homes."

United Way of Rhode Island announced the community-wide effort, the United Way Fund to Prevent Homelessness in Rhode Island, in early January. All contributions made to the fund will be distributed directly to people who

need assistance to pay rent, mortgage and utilities. United Way also announced that the organization will match all contributions to the fund up to \$100,000 between now and March 31.

"This is an issue that is not going away anytime soon," Maione said. "We need to keep drawing attention to what is occurring currently in our community in hopes of affecting change."

"We are all facing tough economic times," said Steve Issa, president and CEO of Sovereign Bank Rhode Island. "There is a significant need here, and Sovereign wanted to take this opportunity to reach out and help keep families in the comfort of their homes." ■

