

For immediate release



For more information:
Faye Zuckerman
United Way of Rhode Island
(401) 444-0644-office
(401) 829-9764-cell
faye.zuckerman@uwri.org

Caption: Anthony Maione, CEO and President of United Way, left, accepts a check from students at Warwick Veterans Memorial High School and gives it to Paul Salera of Westbay Community Action. Paula Goldberg, right, is the school's community service high school teacher who encouraged her nearly 60 students to donate to UWRI's Fund to Prevent Homelessness. They raised the money raking lawns in the neighborhood.

Photo by Keri Ducharme/United Way of Rhode Island

UWRI announces second \$100,000 \$1-for-\$1 match for *Fund to Prevent Homelessness in R.I.*

High school students donate \$1,110 to the United Way Fund to Prevent Homelessness in Rhode Island

Warwick, RI (Feb. 10) United Way of Rhode Island's CEO and President Anthony Maione announced today at Veterans Memorial High School that because donations to the *United Way Fund to Prevent Homelessness in Rhode Island* have exceeded the original \$100,000 dollar-for-dollar match, UWRI will offer a second \$100,000 dollar-for-dollar match.

Maione told the audience of more than 60 high school students and several teachers that the new \$100,000 match will go into effect today and end on March 31. UWRI in early January introduced the *United Way Fund to Prevent Homelessness in Rhode Island* with a dollar-for-dollar match of up to \$100,000. Yesterday, the Fund topped \$100,000, and with the dollar-for-dollar match the Fund now exceeds \$200,000.

“In less than 30 days, we hit our matched goal of \$100,000, and we saw a marked increase in the number of people dialing our 2-1-1 telephone help hotline,” Maione said. “Because of the increased calls, we realize there is great need, and we decided add another \$100,000 in matching funds through March 31st. We are grateful that Rhode Islanders continue to come together to help those in need in our state.”

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.

Maione was at the Warwick high school to present Westbay Community Action with \$1,110 – doubling the \$555 raised by students at Warwick Veterans Memorial High School for the *United Way Fund to Prevent Homelessness in Rhode Island*.

Paul Salera, Westbay Community Action’s director of family and emergency services, upon accepting the UWRI check said, “This money will help individuals and families who are facing difficulties from our State’s economic crisis.”

Some 60 community service high school students and their teacher, Paula Goldberg, during November and early December panned out into the school’s neighboring area. They raked and cleaned up yards of homes owned by elderly citizens. They charged \$2 per bag.

The initial plan was to donate a portion of the money to the local social service agency, Westbay Community Action Program. When it came time to present Salera with a check, he suggested sending it to the *United Way Fund to Prevent Homelessness in Rhode Island*. He told them that United Way would match the \$555 raised dollar-for-dollar doubling the donation.

“Ms. Goldberg and her students of Warwick Vets are going to help someone stay in their home where otherwise they would become homeless,” Salera said. “On behalf of Westbay Community Action and its clients we would like to thank Ms. Goldberg and her students as well as United Way of RI.”

“We all agreed that the money would have more impact if it went to United Way,” Goldberg said. “It was great for us because our community service students helped out the elderly and contributed to assisting people to stay in their homes.”

“We are pleased to see teenagers step forward and give 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 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, 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 UWRI, is also supported by a grant from the Hasbro Children’s Fund as well as additional funds from the state.

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

50 Valley Street
Providence, RI 02909
tel 401.444.0600
fax 401.444.0635
www.LIVEUNITEDri.org



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.

About Westbay Community Action

To assist economically disadvantaged individuals and families achieve and sustain self-sufficiency. Westbay provides services for low and moderate-income residents primarily in Kent County.