



A periodic email newsletter from Anthony Maione, President & CEO, intended to provide community leaders and partners with information about United Way's ongoing efforts to reduce the number of people in need in Rhode Island.

An Option to Better Serve Clients

A year ago, United Way of Rhode Island announced the creation of a special fund to supply financial support to human service agencies looking to merge or combine common operations in order to better serve their clients.

We believe that a Merger and Consolidation Fund is necessary because while Rhode Island's population has remained constant, the number of agencies and organizations dedicated to helping those in need continues to grow. National studies describe billions of dollars in duplicated services offered by non-profit agencies, all who compete for the same limited philanthropic dollars. Some of the duplications are in programs themselves; others are repetitive "backroom" functions, such as payroll or IT.

We awarded a \$45,000 grant in 2007 to the Elmwood Foundation and Elmwood Neighborhood Services to explore a possible combination. I'm pleased to tell you that after months of investigation and due diligence, their respective Boards have voted to combine organizations. Based in the Elmwood neighborhood of Providence, both groups develop affordable housing and strengthen the quality of life for those living in the Southside of the Capital City. They have created close to 1,000 units of affordable housing and invested more than \$60 million in more than 30 years of work in the community.

By joining forces, they will gain efficiencies and expand their capacity to produce the quality affordable homes and businesses in the neighborhoods they serve.

This is a great example of what we hope to achieve with our Merger and Consolidation Fund.

On March 11, United Way will be joined by the Rhode Island Foundation in hosting a morning briefing at the Airport Radisson to outline details of the Fund. The speaking program begins at 9:00am and will feature presentations from agency leaders who have experienced the merger and consolidation process including representatives from the Elmwood organizations. If you are interested in attending and have not received an invitation, please contact me at president@uwri.org.

Thanks.

Tony