

Immediate Release

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Richard Carriere, a first vice president of wealth management /financial planning at Smith Barney, his wife, Louise, and daughter, Nicole, take a break from viewing Providence Journal photographer John Freidah's images of foreclosure and homelessness. The party was held in the lobby of United Way of R.I. in Olneyville.

Photo by Keri Ducharme/United Way of R.I.



Providence Journal John Freidah, his wife, Betsy Angeletti and CEO and President of United Way of R.I., Anthony Maione, are standing in front of an exhibit of photos of foreclosure and homelessness shot by Freidah. Back left, Fannie Mae's Richard Staples Jr. and United Way of R.I.'s director of Planned Giving, Leslie Gardner.

Photo by Keri Ducharme/United Way of R.I.

Party serves up a rare view on homelessness, foreclosure in R.I.

United Way of R.I. features award-winning Projo photographs

Providence (April 2009): More than 125 guests crowded into United Way of Rhode Island's headquarters in Olneyville on March 19 for an event that highlighted UWRI's exhibit of award-

winning, stand-out photographs of homelessness and the foreclosure crisis taken by Providence Journal photographer John Freidah.

Entitled *Through the Lens: Capturing the Foreclosure Crisis*, the first art show and party using gallery space in the lobby of UWRI was part of an educational and fundraising initiative put in place to raise money to keep Rhode Islanders in their homes this winter. During Jan., Feb. and March, the *United Way Fund to Prevent Homelessness in Rhode Island* raised about \$120,000, which the nonprofit matched \$1-for-\$1 bringing the total to nearly \$240,000. One hundred percent of the contributions made to the *Fund* was distributed directly to people who needed assistance to meet rent, mortgage and utilities.

“The engaging photographs are one of several initiatives we have put in place to draw attention to homelessness and the foreclosure crisis -- areas of interest to United Way of Rhode Island,” said Anthony Maione, President and CEO of United Way of RI. “Our first art exhibit displays the impact the housing crisis and state and federal budget cuts are having on Rhode Islanders,”

At the party, guests munched on hors d’oeuvres and mingled with guests, which included board members and several of Freidah’s colleagues at the Providence Journal. The discussion often turned to difficulties Rhode Islanders are facing during this economic downturn. Several guests were visiting for the first time United Way of Rhode Island’s headquarters, which is in a renovated historic mill building on Valley Street. United Way moved there last June.

John Freidah, who has worked for the past 13 years as a photojournalist for The Providence Journal, has been focusing his documentary-style photography on helping to implement social change.

His work has received numerous awards, including Picture of the Year's *Newspaper Photographer of the Year*, 3rd place; Northern Short Course's *Photographer of the Year*; and three-time National Press Photographer's Regional *Photographer of the Year*. He won a National Media Award in print journalism from the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, and

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a National Excellence in Journalism award by the National Marrow Donor Program. Freidah's work has appeared in National Geographic, Time magazine, Newsweek, and on ABC's *Nightline*.

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.

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