

For Immediate Release
May 27, 2009

\$1.6 Million on its Way to Help Kansas City Area Residents Affected by the Struggling Economy

(Greater Kansas City)----The *United for Hope/United to Help* campaign to assist people who are struggling because of the economic downturn is making good on its promise to quickly get the money into the hands of those who need it. United Way of Greater Kansas City, which led the community-wide fundraising effort, recently sent checks totaling more than \$1.6 million to nearly 60 Kansas City area nonprofit agencies involved in providing front-line emergency assistance to those in need.

The money raised during the 40-day *United for Hope/United to Help* campaign will provide things like food, rent/mortgage/utility assistance, help with prescriptions and medical supplies, transportation assistance, job readiness/job search programs, and support of homeless and domestic violence shelters. The goal of the fundraising campaign was to provide additional resources to help nonprofit agencies serve more of the people they were being forced to turn away.

Of the money raised through the *United for Hope/United to Help* campaign, more than \$587,000 has been placed into a fund at the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation for direct assistance grants to help families or individuals working with caseworkers at front-line nonprofit agencies. To date, more than \$150,000 in emergency assistance grants have been made to provide basic needs for 321 local families served by these caseworkers.

Nearly 60 local nonprofit agencies applied for *United for Hope/United to Help* capacity building grants saying they need the money to meet increased demand, to replace lost funding from other sources, and to expand services with additional staff or extended hours of operation. Teams of community volunteers and representatives from various contributing foundations reviewed the grant requests that totaled more than \$4 million. The review teams decided to give some additional funding to all of the agencies that applied.

The largest recipient of funds was Harvesters-the Community Food Network, which received a total of \$165,000 (including the \$130,000 it received in March, when the *United for Hope/United to Help* campaign was announced), Mid-America Assistance Coalition received \$50,000 (also in March), while Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas, Salvation Army, Redemptorist Social Services Center and reStart each received \$35,000. Fifty-two other agencies also received funding, ranging from \$30,000 given to El Centro and Truman Medical Center outpatient clinics to a grant of \$2,500 for the emergency assistance program at St. Theresa Little Flower.

The distribution was the first of what will be two rounds of emergency assistance grants, with another round of funding planned for August. The two phase approach recognizes the fact that people who are out of work, facing foreclosure and having trouble affording the basic necessities of life may still be in need of assistance in the fall, if the economy doesn't improve.

Anyone still interested in making a donation to the special *United for Hope/United to Help* campaign can do so, by sending a check made payable to United Way at 1080 Washington St., Kansas City, MO 64105. Be sure to indicate on the memo line of your check that your donation is for the *United for Hope/United to Help* campaign. United Way's regular fundraising campaign focused on raising funds to support more than 300 health and human service programs throughout the community will begin on September 10, 2009.

For additional information, contact:

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