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United Way of Allegheny County Selects Partner Agencies to Receive 2009-2010 Impact Fund Allocations

*Rigorous selection process supports Pittsburgh's most critical needs,
assures donors that contributions are making a difference*

(PITTSBURGH) – In its latest round of competitive funding to help address Pittsburgh's most critical needs, the United Way of Allegheny County today announced 18 winning proposals that will receive allocations of nearly \$2 million over 12 months.

The United Way Board of directors approved allocations to 16 high-performing agencies that provide services in two areas: assisting the community's financially struggling adults and families, and helping youth succeed and reducing risk factors for young children.

**Editor's note: The full list of awards to these agencies is available at the end of this press release.*

Effective today, the allocations are another major step in the United Way's transformation to a rigorous open competition and review process for determining agencies that are best able to provide services to the Pittsburgh community. The organization's "Impact Model," which was implemented in June 2008, fosters a competitive selection process that is open to all human service agencies in Allegheny County. The new system is designed have the greatest possible impact on the community's critical needs, and to respond to donors seeking the best use of their charitable donations.

The United Way uses four criteria in its selection process. In their proposals, agencies must demonstrate that they are:

- Well-managed by a professional staff
- Well-governed by a volunteer board using best management practices
- Financially sound with a sustainable funding base, and
- Demonstrating measurable results for a population with great needs

"In these times, when so many families are struggling to make ends meet, the United Way has chosen these 18 proposals from among the 97 that were submitted that will prevent eviction, foreclosures and loss of jobs, among many other critical services," said Bob Nelkin, president and chief professional officer, United Way of Allegheny County.

The grants to help financially struggling individuals are in addition to other work funded by the United Way's annual campaign that reaches more than 321,000 people in Pittsburgh.

"As part of this round of allocations, the United Way has also chosen proposals to help prepare children for success as they enter kindergarten and have the character and skills to succeed in school and life," said Todd Moules, president of National City Bank of Pennsylvania and chair of the Impact Cabinet.

Once an agency is selected to receive United Way Impact Fund allocations, it is a sign that the organization is a model of excellence in human services.

“We will continue to fund only well-run programs that are proven to have the greatest impact,” said Moules.

“Contributors to the United Way expect that their gifts are addressing our community’s most critical needs in an efficient and effective manner,” said Art Rooney, United Way Board chair and president of the Pittsburgh Steelers. “Through this rigorous selection process, the agencies that evaluate their strengths and weaknesses and take actions to bring about improvements are the ones that are going to be successful over the long term.”

According to the United Way, donors increasingly want to know that their contributions will be used effectively and will make a difference in people’s lives. With the new allocation process, there is a higher level of assurance to donors that their donations are supporting those most in need and are supporting organizations making a measurable difference.

Among those making a difference are the 171 United Way volunteers from 75 local companies in the business and professional communities, who review proposals and select agencies to receive allocations.

“We take pride in the fact that United Way volunteers drove the proposal and selection process,” explained Nelkin. “It’s not our staff that selects the agencies. Our volunteers review each proposal and make recommendations to United Way committee and board members, who make the final decision.”

Call for New Proposals

The United Way of Allegheny County also announced today that it is seeking proposals from eligible nonprofits that provide services impacting Vulnerable Seniors and Adults with Disabilities as part of its next round of allocations funding. A total of \$575,000 in Impact Funds will be distributed via one-year grants to support this critical need area.

All funds must be used to ensure that vulnerable seniors and adults with disabilities receive necessary home and community-based services in order to remain healthy and safe in their homes. Applicants must be 501 (c) 3 nonprofit health and human service organizations in Allegheny County.

For more information or to apply, visit www.unitedwaypittsburgh.org. Information and training sessions for applicants will be held on July 8 and 10. To register for training, email communityimpact@uwac.org. Proposal packets are due August 3, 2009.

Full List of Agencies to be Funded

Programs that Assist Financially Struggling Adults and Families (3-year renewable grants):

- **ACTION-Housing:** will **prevent mortgage foreclosures** for low-income adults and families through an emergency “hotline,” a variety of loan and mortgage mitigation initiatives, assistance in accessing safe and affordable housing options when foreclosure is deemed unavoidable and the development of community-wide responses to address larger scale foreclosure issues.
- **Community Human Services Corporation:** will **prevent eviction and utility shut offs** for low-income households through its flexible housing stabilization program, which provides coordinated supportive services and an emergency fund so that housing situations may be stabilized beyond the short term.

- **Family Services of Western Pennsylvania:** will provide loans to low-income working individuals (most of whom are custodial parents) who are unable to access traditional financing sources so they may **purchase or repair an automobile needed for transportation to work** and/or employment support services such as child care and job training activities.
- **Jewish Family and Children's Services:** *Maturity Works* program will **provide assistance for low-income mature workers (ages 45-65) who are unemployed, underemployed, or otherwise at serious risk to guide them on a successful employment path.**
- **North Hills Community Outreach:** will **connect low-income adults and families with services** that meet their immediate basic needs and guide them towards attainment of their long term self sufficiency goals.
- **Travelers Aid:** will extend its **transportation assistance program** to low-income adults and families in the Mon Valley who are referred by and enrolled in the Braddock Employment Training Center or are newly employed and are finding transportation to be a barrier in accessing child care services.
- **Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh:** will provide emergency rental and foreclosure assistance and intensive supportive services along with financial education aimed at **prevention of eviction/foreclosure prevention.**
- **Veteran's Leadership Program:** will enhance its services to **assist veterans, experiencing homelessness, incarceration and unemployment,** and their immediate family members with job placement and re-training along with a robust array of supportive services.

Programs that Help Teens and Young Adults Succeed or Reduce Risk Factors for Young Children (1-year grants):

For Young Children:

- **Boy Scouts:** Cub Scouts 1-2-3 adapts proven program techniques so that they can be delivered in communities where volunteer resources and access to program materials are limited and has goals to **vastly expand recruitment of children from low-income families, retention of the youth for several years and high levels of achievement for the youth.**
- **Family Services of Western Pennsylvania:** will assist children in high-poverty areas by **providing therapy to families in which the adults are experiencing addiction, depression and other mental health issues** and by teaching these parents how to help their children be successful in school.
- **Human Services Center Corporation:** will utilize an afterschool tutorial program designed to **increase the proficiency in math and reading** of the Kindergarten and first grade students, and a **proven behavior improvement program** with its K-3 grade students to increase their social competency and cognitive skills.
- **Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh:** will expand its kindergarten transition program, K-Club, to help families with children ages 3-5 in the Northview Heights housing community **enroll and succeed in pre-school, head start and kindergarten** with the goal of improving academic outcomes for the children.

For Older Youth and Young Adults:

- **Boys and Girls Clubs:** will implement the Great Start Juvenile Justice program which provides **youth development services to juvenile offenders ages 10-18**. The youth will be referred by juvenile justice authorities and local magistrates and will receive guidance while performing community service and work activities to pay court-ordered restitution.
- **Family Resources:** will expand use of its evidence-based Nurturing Curriculum for pregnant and parenting teens as a means to further its mission of **eliminating child abuse and neglect by teaching teen parents about child development and appropriate, positive discipline**.
- **Hill House Association:** will help **young non-custodial fathers (ages 16-24) gain employment**, connect with their children and fulfill responsibilities, including financial support.
- **Turtle Creek Valley Mental Health and Mental Retardation** offers a **research-based program to improve behavior and school success of youth in grades 4-9** who are at risk for educational failure or involvement in the juvenile justice system by working daily in their schools, supporting their educational efforts, and being in close contact with their families and with community members in an effort to provide comprehensive intervention.
- **Wireless Neighborhoods:** afterschool and summer program provides **academic tutoring** and other services for youth attending Peabody High School, one of the City's lowest achieving high schools, so they will stay in school, improve attendance, grades, and test scores, graduate or matriculate to the next grade level, recover failed courses and become employable and employed at higher levels than their non-participating peers at Peabody.
- **YouthWorks:** will use its **work readiness curriculum to assist youth who are involved in the foster care and/or the juvenile justice systems** in developing the habits and skills necessary for employment, and will also provide employment experiences and paid employment so youth gain an understanding of the workplace and the feeling of accomplishment too frequently absent from their lives.

United Way of Allegheny County is a change agent and efficient community fundraiser that improves lives by addressing critical community needs. By convening diverse partners and investing in programs and people to advance solutions, United Way creates long-lasting change and helps children and youth succeed, strengthens and supports families by promoting financial stability, ensures the safety and well-being of vulnerable seniors, and provides county-wide access to information and referral sources meeting basic needs. www.unitedwaypittsburgh.org.

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