

PRESS RELEASE

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United Way Board Approves \$2 Million to Local Partner Agencies

The United Way's Board of Directors voted to approve funding for 86 programs and services on May 28, 2008. The forty-four local partner agencies will be receiving a total of \$2,000,200 to fund the 86 human services programs that are vital to improving the lives of individuals throughout Flagler and Volusia Counties. Over 1,000 volunteer hours were donated to make these important funding decisions.

United Way of Volusia-Flagler Counties is this region's most comprehensive health and human service umbrella organization and is focused solely on local community impact. United Way donations are the largest single source of funding for local non-profit agencies, with the exception of governments. Its allocation process is controlled strictly by volunteers. This year, 73 community volunteers took part in the process, which included tours of partner agencies requesting funding, visits with staff and financial presentations. These volunteers put in over 1,000 hours to make the tough funding decisions.

United Way of Volusia-Flagler Counties' partner agencies include: PACE Center for Girls, Council on Aging, Halifax Urban Ministries, Florida's Coast to Coast Chapter of the American Red Cross, Family Life Center, the Boy's and Girl's Clubs and many more. As a result of the community's recognition for the need for improvement in the area of homelessness; this, year we were able to introduce a new agency into the United Way. "We are proud to have the Homeless Assistance Corporation on board as our newest partner agency," said Ray Salazar, President of the UWVFC "Reducing the number of homeless individuals is proving to be an ever growing challenge in the face of economic hardships." The STAR Center, a program of the Homeless Assistance Corporation, will be receiving funding to provide free shelter to homeless.

Other agencies continue to report amazing outcomes of their United Way funded programs. One example is Family Renew Community who has an 80% success rate of keeping families out of homelessness. Another example is the Second Harvest Food Bank who are able transform a \$1 donation into a \$9 food value. Continued successful outcomes are a vital part of the evaluation process and help to show the impact of every donated dollar in the community.

The money that is allocated each year comes directly from the donations from individuals and companies throughout Volusia and Flagler Counties. The annual fund

raising campaign is the one of the standard models in effective fundraising and combines over 50 fundraisers into one. The workplace campaigns constitute the largest portion of funds raised through the combined efforts of more than 10,000 local employees who donate through payroll deductions.

The four areas of focus for community dollars in 2008 continue to be the following:

- **Category 1- Essential Services-** These programs provide for basic needs, which include food, clothing, and emergency shelter.
08-09 Funding: \$563,300 or 28%
- **Category 2 - Critical Services-** These programs provide services for crisis support such as: maintaining or obtaining employment (including child care support), crisis medical care, and crisis mental health services.
08-09 Funding: \$462,200 or 23%
- **Category 3 - Treatment and Residential Services-** These programs provide ongoing services for substance abuse, health, mental health, disabilities, and support.
08-09 Funding: \$324,800 or 16%
- **Category 4 - Prevention, Education and Recreational Services-** These programs provide services with long-term outcomes relating to prevention, education, recreation, and outreach.
08-09 Funding: \$649,900 or 33%

Special thanks to all of the volunteers and donors who made this process possible.

About the United Way of Volusia-Flagler Counties, Inc.

The United Way of Volusia-Flagler improves lives and builds a stronger community by bringing together hearts, minds and resources from across the region and by developing effective partnerships with businesses, government and nonprofit organizations. For more information, please visit the web-site www.unitedway-vfc.org