

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 25, 2008

## United Way invests in local programs to create opportunities for a better life for all

**Bemidji, MN** - On June 18, the United Way of Bemidji Area Board of Directors approved funding for area projects and programs, allocating \$293,000 to be distributed to 31 local nonprofit human service agencies for the 2008/2009 year starting in July 2008. This figure is up from last year due to a successful campaign in 2007, where \$412,750 was raised through the generosity of the community.

United Way provides funding to partner agencies that provide a variety of programs and initiatives that address the root-cause of the most serious human needs in our community and create real, lasting change in people's lives in the areas of education, income and health.

Of the \$293,000 to be awarded, \$115,800 will fund educational programs that help children, youth and adults achieve their full potential; \$34,800 will support income programs and services that promote financial stability, increase self-sufficiency and independence; and \$142,400 will fund programs that improve people's health and social well-being, and provide emergency services to those in need.

In addition to these allocations, in February, the United Way of Bemidji Area granted \$8,491 to fund its Venture Grant program which provides one time dollars for emerging needs or special projects to local nonprofits through a separate annual application process.

This year, two new agencies applied in the allocation process for available United Way of Bemidji Area funding and became partners: Let's Go Fishing and Northwoods Coalition for Family Safety.

Other nonprofit organizations who will receive funding from the United Way in 2008/2009 are: Adult Day Services, ARC Headwaters, Bemidji Community Soup Kitchen, Bemidji Senior Center, Boys & Girls Club of the Bemidji Area, Churches United, Civil Air Patrol-Northland Squadron, Community Resource Connections, Courage Center, Evergreen Recovery House/Evergreen Shelter, Foster Grandparents/Senior Companions, Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin Lake and Pines, Healthy Community Healthy Kid's Kinship North, Hope House, Lutheran Social Service, North Country Food Bank, North Country Hospice, Northwoods Habitat for

Humanity, Northwoods Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers, Occupational Development Center, Ours to Serve House of Hospitality, Paul Bunyan Amateur Radio Club, Peacemaker Resources, Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Salvation Army, Sexual Assault Program, Timber Bay, Upper Mississippi Mental Health Center and Voyageurs Area Council Boy Scouts.

Allocations are based on demonstrated need in our community. To be eligible for 2008/2009 funding local 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations submitted an application that was due by March 31, 2008. These proposals were then reviewed by sixteen volunteers that made up the Allocation committee. Through a series of meetings during April and May these sixteen local community volunteers visited with applicant agencies and reviewed budgets to determine degree of community need, impact on that need, and the ability of the agency to provide the program and measure its results. The United Way Board of Directors then accepted and approved the committee's recommendations at their recent June meeting.

Along with other community partners, both for profit and nonprofit, the United Way of Bemidji Area also sponsors a number of year round programs such as Coats for the Community, Holiday Gifts for Kids, "Stamp Out Hunger" National Letter Carriers Food Drive, Senior Community Clean-Up Day, Someone Special Volunteer program, "Inspire By Example" Volunteer Recognition program, and Week of Caring.

For further information about the United Way of Bemidji Area please visit [www.liveunitedbemidji.org](http://www.liveunitedbemidji.org).

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