

PRESS RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Deborah McCauley, Marketing Director
United Way of Greater Duluth
Phone: 218.726.4853 | Cell: 218.343.0626
email: dmccauley@unitedwayduluth.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

United Way of Greater Duluth Announces 2009 Funding

DULUTH, Minn., April 24, 2009 – United Way of Greater Duluth’s Board of Directors has approved **\$1,462,652** in community care allocations to invest in more than 50 local nonprofit health and human service programs that provide services to residents in the greater Duluth area. In addition, more than \$108,000 in designated pledges will be distributed to specific agencies or programs as directed by individual donors. The 2009 allocations support community needs in four targeted areas including: Fostering Successful Children & Youth; Improving People’s Health; Promoting Financial Stability & Independence; and Ensuring a Strong Network of Basic Human Services.

United Way of Greater Duluth also anticipates investing more than \$500,000 in high-impact initiatives including Smiles Across Minnesota-Duluth, a preventative dental care program serving area schools; United Way 2-1-1, an information and referral call center; Imagination Library, a school-readiness program that sends a free book every month to enrolled children under the age of five; and Lake Superior Initiative, a capacity-building program to strengthen local nonprofit organizations.

Funding priorities are based on community impact research pinpointing the most pressing health and human service needs and focused where they can have the greatest impact on people in our community and produce measurable results. Programs receiving funding are accountable to the community for the dollars they are receiving through reporting data and results to ensure the programming is building a stronger, healthier community.

This year, 55 community volunteers took part in the process, which included reviewing agency proposals, touring agencies requesting funding, visits with staff and rating organizations based on criteria including how closely the program aligned with United Way of Greater Duluth’s goals and the agency or nonprofit’s ability to deliver services. These volunteers put in over 1,000 hours to make the tough funding decisions.

Most recommendations are for two years of funding; however some agencies will receive funds only for 2009.

The 2009 allocations include:

- \$590,250 for programs that Foster Successful Children and Youth
- \$476,043 for programs that help to Ensure a Strong Network of Basic Human Services
- \$240,375 for programs that Improve People’s Health
- \$176,250 for programs that help Promote Financial Stability & Independence

“Thanks to our community, we are able to provide funding to over 50 local programs in four different areas of community need,” said Paula Reed, President of United Way. “Because of our hard-working volunteers and people who give in our community, we are able to reach people who need it most.”

Funding sources for the allocations come from the campaign and donor-directed gifts. Organizations received their first payment on April 15th, 2009.

About United Way of Greater Duluth

United Way of Greater Duluth’s mission is to lead a united effort to strengthen our community by mobilizing resources to improve people’s lives. By working with a network of local volunteers and community agencies, United Way of Greater Duluth funds programs in four critical areas: Fostering Successful Children & Youth, Improving People’s Health, Promoting Financial Stability & Independence and Ensuring a Strong Network of Basic Human Services – with the goal of creating longstanding change. United Way of Greater Duluth also operates United Way 2-1-1 an information and referral call center that connects people in need of information with community resources, as well as individuals seeking to volunteer. For more information about United Way of Greater Duluth, visit www.unitedwayduluth.org.

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