



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**United Way of Lane County focuses on effectiveness in
distribution of Community Solutions Funds and announces
two new program recipients.**

Springfield, OR – As part of its community impact work, United Way of Lane County has announced the results of its volunteer-driven Community Investment Process (CIP). As the trusted steward of local donors' investments in the community, United Way uses the intensive Community Investment Process to assure that donor contributions are used to make the most effective difference in addressing the needs of Lane County residents.

The CIP takes place every two years when United Way certified agencies are invited to submit proposals for funding of programs. Programs receive funding for a 2-year cycle and are evaluated for demonstrated efficiency, alignment with United Way's Goal Areas, and the ability to show meaningful outcomes that improve lives and strengthen Lane County communities.

The funds distributed are from United Way's Community Solutions Fund, the central focus of United Way's annual campaign.

Only United Way "certified" agencies are eligible to apply for this bi-annual funding cycle. In order to be certified, agencies must meet rigorous standards including best practices in fiscal management, board structure, diversity, and more.

65 different programs administered through 41 agencies were awarded Community Solutions funding for a total of \$1,917,052. Distribution of these funds begins January, 2008.

Community Solutions grants were awarded to programs in the following Goal Areas:

- Success By 6 programs – \$360,171.
- Youth on Track programs – \$596,030
- Essentials for Life programs – \$960,851

Two agencies will be receiving United Way Community Solutions funding for the first time. They are the Boys and Girls Club of Emerald Valley (\$25,000 for education and technology program for children) and School Based Health Centers (\$9,000 for a community dental health program).

An additional \$952,491 is currently being distributed to United Way partner agencies in the form of donor-restricted gifts. Some donors choose to have all or part of their United Way contribution go to specific agencies rather than to the Community Solutions Fund. The amount of these funds varies annually. 2008 donor-restricted dollars will be determined by Feb. 2008.

Each program proposal was thoroughly evaluated by a Community Investment Panel comprised of volunteers. Over 150 volunteers took part in this year's CIP as members of 13 separate panels, each one reviewing between 4 and 6 different programs. The CIP takes approximately 3 months to complete during which time panel members read proposals, visit program sites, assess financial reports, and take part in multiple deliberation sessions. Panel recommendations are reviewed by Goal Area leadership teams, the Community Solutions Committee, and passed on to the Board of Directors for final approval.

In order to be funded, programs must fit under the strategic priorities of each of United Way's Goal Areas. The Goal Areas are determined by volunteers and community experts as well as research measuring Lane County's needs and assets. Current United Way Goal Areas focus on early childhood development and prevention of child abuse (*Success By 6*), support for local youth in reaching their highest potential (*Youth on Track*), and helping vulnerable individuals reach their greatest levels of independence (*Essentials for Life*).

For a program and agency list including individual funding amounts, contact Cheryl Crumbley at 541-741-6000 or ccrumbley@unitedwaylane.org.

United Way of Lane County, Oregon invests donor contributions in health and human services across the county. Volunteers and community experts identify critical issues and make investment decisions that are targeted at the region's most serious challenges. Through a commitment to collaboration, partnership and measured results, United Way improves people's lives and creates long-term change in the community.

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