

**For More Information:**

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## United Way invests \$1.2 million in South Mississippi

Gulfport, Miss – July 7, 2009 – United Way of South Mississippi (UWSM) announced on Tuesday that \$1,221,515 will be invested in programs addressing Affordable Housing, Education and Healthy Families in Harrison, Hancock and Pearl River Counties during 2009.

The UWSM Board of Directors approved this year’s funding, based on recommendations from Community Investment Teams. Over several months, 14 trained community impact volunteers critically analyzed funding applications. They determined which programs are making measurable impact within one or more United Way priority area, and thus recommended them to the Board for funding.

By partnering with agencies that provide programs in the three priority areas, UWSM is able to create lasting change throughout the community. These key areas of funding were selected as the result of a community needs assessment that was conducted in 2008.

Community Impact grants in the area of Affordable Housing will provide affordable housing for seniors, rental assistance, and financial literacy classes in South Mississippi. The Healthy Families priority area includes life skills training, treatment for addictions and safe havens from violence. Programs addressing education issues will see children meet developmental milestones, families gain access to afterschool care, and children have access to appropriate mental health services.

“Each program that we are funding will work towards goals within our three priority areas,” said Clay Wagner, president of the UWSM Board. “These key areas are critically important to the future of South Mississippi because they are so deeply connected; when progress is made in these areas the entire community benefits and we are able to continue advancing the common good. United Way is so grateful for the many donors who make our community impact work possible.”

The 2009 Community Impact funds will begin distribution immediately and the grants made in each priority area are as follows: Affordable Housing \$428,000, Education \$508,515, Healthy Families \$285,000.

2009 United Way of South Mississippi Community Impact grants by priority area, agency and program:

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Affordable Housing Programs</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Habitat for Humanity Bay-Waveland	Senior Villa	\$40,000
International Relief & Development	Senior Housing	\$50,000
Manna Ministries	Senior Housing	\$50,000
Back Bay Mission	Rental Assistance	\$20,000
Catholic Social & Community Services	Case Management	\$65,000

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Hancock Housing Resource Center	Housing Assistance	\$25,000
Interfaith Hospitality Network	Rental Assistance	\$16,000
International Relief & Development	Rental Assistance	\$20,000
Mercy Housing	Rental Assistance	\$50,000
South MS AIDS Task Force	Rental Assistance	\$52,000
Gulf Coast Women's Center for Nonviolence	Skills for Affordable Housing	\$20,000
<b>Subtotal for Affordable Housing</b>		<b>\$428,000</b>

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Healthy Families</b>	<b>Funding</b>
American Red Cross – Gulf Coast Chapter	Disaster Preparedness Grant	\$110,000
Center for Prevention of Child Abuse	Family First Parent Resource Center	\$30,000
De l'Epee Deaf Center	Healthy Families Communication	\$15,000
Gulf Coast Family Counseling	Mental Health Services	\$20,000
Gulf Coast Women's Center for Nonviolence	Domestic Violence Shelter	\$70,000
Gulf Coast Mental Health Association	Live Oaks Treatment Center	\$15,000
Long Beach Substance Abuse Task Force	Middle School Resiliency	\$25,000
<b>Subtotal for Healthy Families</b>		<b>\$285,000</b>

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Education</b>	<b>Funding</b>
4-H Hancock County	Youth Development	\$3,000
Boy Scouts - Pine Burr Council	Scoutreach	\$25,000
Girl Scouts - Gulf Pines Council	Traditional Scouting	\$20,000
	Scouting in the School Day	\$35,000

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Gulf Coast Women's Center for Nonviolence	Children's Program	\$35,000
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast	Harrison County Afterschool Care	\$30,000
	Hancock County Afterschool Care	\$8,000
Hancock County Human Resource Agency	Child Development, Youth Development	\$70,000
Moore Community House	Child Development	\$70,000
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast	New Hope Program	\$130,702
	Positive Behavioral Expectations	\$5,000
Memorial Hospital Foundation	School Clinic Therapist	\$49,298
Long Beach Substance Abuse Task Force	Youth Leadership Program	\$5,000
Additional Mini-grants		\$40,000
Youth Development Coalition	Capacity Building for Providers	\$2,515
	<b>Subtotal for Education</b>	<b>\$508,515</b>
	<b>Total for 2009 Grants</b>	<b>\$1,221,515</b>

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