

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Contact: Michelle Tarnelli
315.733.4691 x225
michelle.tarnelli@unitedwaygu.org

**ECONOMIC CLIMATE FORCES LOCAL UNITED WAY
TO MAKE FINANCIAL ADJUSTMENTS**

Utica, NY (April 27, 2009) — In the midst of an economic crisis, tightening budgets and increasing community need, United Way of the Valley & Greater Utica Area feels the pressure. Due to a projected significant increase in uncollectable pledges, the Board of Directors approved an amended budget that includes a reduction in the overall community investments, but not a reduction in every program, beginning July 1, 2009.

“These are tough times for all organizations and this was a very difficult but necessary decision to make,” says Executive Director, Phil Hayne. “The important thing is that we are still committed to these programs and to supporting the Mohawk Valley community’s greatest needs.”

The United Way Board of Directors approved a 20% reduction to current program agreements and the funding pools for upcoming awards. Herkimer County programs are exceptions to this reduction due to the contracted merger agreement with the former Valley United Way.

“We understand agencies are experiencing cuts from many avenues and we are committed to working with our partners through this process,” adds Hayne. “We ask our the Mohawk Valley people to continue working with us and supporting the future of this community.”

There are many easy ways to give to United Way - through your employer via payroll deduction, through your stockbroker, over the phone, in the mail, or online at www.unitedwaygu.org.

For a current list of United Way funded programs and the partner agency affiliate, visit www.unitedwaygu.org and click on the “Partners” link. The list will be updated this May when the Board of Directors approves the volunteers’ funding decisions for upcoming awards.

For more information, contact Michelle Tarnelli, Director of Marketing & Communications at 315.733.4691 x225 or michelle.tarnelli@unitedwaygu.org.

- more -

About United Way

United Way of the Valley & the Greater Utica Area is a local, independent non-profit organization funding area programs and services that address the most crucial local community impact issues. United Way's strength is its ability to improve lives by mobilizing its partners to create positive, sustained change in community conditions and to focus on what matters most—results. For more information, visit www.unitedwaygu.org or call 315.733.4691.

#