

June 18, 2008

United Way Prepared to Help Flood Victims

Assistance will be available in area and around Iowa and Illinois

United Way of the Quad Cities Area is prepared to assist flood victims around Iowa and Illinois and here at home. In the Quad Cities area, individuals can find assistance through InfoLINK, an information and referral service at United Way. Trying to find access to the best resources to meet the need in a time of crisis can be difficult. United Way has a simple way to get the answers. At United Way's InfoLINK, information specialists are on hand to help individuals find the appropriate community resources to meet their needs. United Way's InfoLINK can be reached simply by dialing 2-1-1 in Iowa or 563.355.9900 from Illinois.

"Many people in our area are facing the difficult task of cleaning up after the flood," stated Scott Crane, United Way of the Quad Cities Area president. "Many of these people have no insurance and need assistance in getting their homes in order and their lives back on track. We're here to help make it easier by connecting the victims with the agencies that can offer them help."

In addition, our local United Way has assistance available to organizations that may be having difficulty meeting the need of individuals affected by flooding. Local health and human service agencies can apply for an Emergency Grant to help with funding. Emergency Grants are awarded from United Way's Community Partnership Grant Fund. Each year, 2% of the dollars raised through the annual campaign are put into this fund. A volunteer Community Investment Committee considers applications and recommendations are forwarded to the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors for final approval.

United Way of the Quad Cities Area is also monitoring the situation across the two states through contact with local United Ways and other service organizations. "We stand ready to assist as needed to help other areas devastated by flooding," stated Crane. "Currently, we have staff going to Cedar Rapids to man phones in their call center. They are receiving over 3000 calls each day from people in need of assistance and their staff simply can't keep up." In addition, United Way of the Quad Cities Area is assisting in volunteer coordination to help with the clean-up efforts here and in other areas. Flood clean-up will be happening over the next several months for many areas and our local United Way has committed to matching volunteers with needs as they become available. Volunteers wishing to be contacted for future clean-up efforts can contact United Way's InfoLINK or visit the website at www.unitedwayqc.org.

More about United Way

United Way of the Quad Cities Area has a mission to improve lives and make a positive impact in our community by mobilizing people and resources. United Way has a long history of being a resource to the community in areas of health and human services. We have received a 4-star ranking from Charity Navigator, an independent evaluator of philanthropic organizations, for three years in a row for our efficient use of donor funds. Among our programs is InfoLINK, an information and

referral service connecting people in need with the community programs and services designed to meet that need. InfoLINK can be reached by dialing 2-1-1 in Iowa or 563.355.9900 in Illinois.

United Way is working to advance the common good by creating opportunities for a better life for all. Our goal is to create long-lasting changes by addressing the underlying causes of the problems. In 2007, we adopted a new strategic plan that includes leading a Birth-to-Work community agenda to prepare all Quad City area youth for success in school and life. As part of this plan we have brought Imagination Library to the Quad Cities. Through Imagination Library all children in Scott and Rock Island County ages 0-5 will be eligible to receive free, hardcover books mailed to their homes each month. Through this program we hope to help establish the critical pre-reading skills that help ensure success in school. For more information on United Way of the Quad Cities Area, visit www.unitedwayqc.org.