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AFL-CIO/CLC Affiliated

May 28, 2009

Dear AFM Local Officer:

As America works to turn itself around from one of the most severe economic downturns in memory, working families and the middle class are struggling with unemployment and mortgage foreclosures. Eight million working Americans have lost their jobs since the onset last year of the current economic crisis and many of these families have lost their homes, health insurance, and savings.

United Way has been the human services partner of unions through the AFL-CIO Community Services network for more than sixty years. United Way works to see that contributions go directly to programs having a real impact in communities and changing the lives of those they help. United Way has also partnered with unions to promote health care for children, early childhood development, education, and financial stability for families.

The labor movement has responded with a national website, [unemploymentlifeline.com](http://unemploymentlifeline.com), which has a range of resources and strategies for the unemployed, as well as connection to local assistance programs. But families in need must be helped directly in the communities where they live – and that's where the United Way is most helpful. It is the primary community partner of the AFL-CIO and labor unions and its funding makes possible the wide range of high-impact programs and services that people need to get back on their feet.

I endorse the 2009 United Way Campaign in the communities where our members live and work, and I invite AFM locals and members to consider a contribution in support of the good work of the United Way and the AFL-CIO Community Services network it helps fund.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Thomas F. Lee  
President  
AFM

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