



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Greater Twin Cities United Way Helps With Prescription Drug Costs

No income or age limit to use prescript drug discount cards

Twin Cities (April 21, 2008) – If you don't have health insurance, or you must buy medicine not covered by your insurance plan, a discount card being distributed by Greater Twin Cities United Way could lower the cost of your medicine by as much as 35 percent. United Way is providing these cards to the community – free – to everyone who needs one. There are no age or income restrictions; no limits on how often it can be used – and – no waiting. In fact, one can cut out the sample card that is at the bottom of the release.*

“We wanted to make it as easy as possible for people in our community to save on prescription drugs. There are too many people who have insufficient or no prescription coverage or need medications not covered by their insurance, Medicare, Medicaid or VA benefits,” says United Way Director of Health and Independence, Lezlie Taylor. She continues, “We believe this is one way to begin to tackle the tough issue of ensuring that people who need medications are able to get them.”

Healthcare costs are one of the top concerns for people in the community and the **FamilyWize** prescription drug discount cards will help individuals and families who otherwise could not afford to buy the medicine they need. Minnesota Health Department statistics indicate that an estimated one in six people lack prescription drug coverage. The average savings for consumers will be nearly 40 percent.

Greater Twin Cities United Way is joining with 600 United Ways across the country in lowering the cost of prescription medication for people who need help with their prescription costs. This partnership is saving over **\$1 million every month** with a goal of saving **\$100 million** over the next 5 years. To date, more than 4 million cards have been distributed and over \$7 million has been saved. More information can be found on the program's website at WWW.FAMILYWIZE.ORG and one

can obtain drug prices, a list of participating pharmacies and print additional cards for family, friends and co-workers.

The **FamilyWize** cards are accepted at most Twin Cities pharmacies and for a complete list simply log on to www.unitedwaytwincities.org. You can also call United Way **2-1-1** and if you use a cell phone, dial **651-291-0211**.

United Way's Lezlie Taylor says, "It's truly amazing what we can accomplish when we all work together. So many people and organizations have joined together to make this possible."

Participating pharmacies in the community have agreed to accept the **FamilyWize** cards and provide these savings to people in need. Two Pennsylvania printers, Independent Graphics of Pittston, PA and Brown Printing of Bethlehem, PA, have donated the printing for the cards, Fed Ex Express donates the shipping of the cards and the pharmacy benefit manager provides a portion of the processing to cover the administrative costs. Greater Twin Cities United Way is coordinating the local distribution of the cards.

"We hope everyone in the community will thank their pharmacist, Greater Twin Cities United Way and everyone else involved for the difference they are making in the lives of so many people in the community," said Dan Barnes, Co-Chair, **The FamilyWize Community Service Partnership**.

About Greater Twin Cities United Way

Greater Twin Cities United Way improves lives and builds a stronger community by bringing together hearts, minds and resources from across the region and by developing effective partnerships with businesses, government and nonprofit organizations. Greater Twin Cities United Way is an independent organization serving Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Isanti, Ramsey, Scott and western Washington counties. For more information visit www.unitedwaytwincities.org or call (612) 340-7400.

ABOUT THE FAMILYWIZE PARTNERSHIP

The FamilyWize community service partnership was established in 2005 and coordinated by Membership Services Corporation of Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania to reduce the cost of medicine for people who live and work in the Lehigh Valley. We believe that stronger, healthier and happier people make healthier, better communities and a stronger, gentler nation. Now, more than ten thousand community and faith-based organizations, county agencies, doctors, pharmacies, companies, and individuals across the country are joined together in this partnership to distribute free FamilyWize prescription drug discount cards in their communities, reducing the cost of medicine for people in one out every four counties in the United States. More than 535 participating United Way agencies, America's Promise Alliance Partners, and individual counties in all 50 states and Puerto Rico have volunteered to coordinate these distribution efforts. The savings on the cost of the medicine is provided by the more than 53,000 participating local pharmacies that have agreed voluntarily to accept prices for medications that are close to the prices they make available to large insurance companies and employers. All other program costs, including materials, printing,

shipping, programming, distribution, reporting, administration, network pharmacy services and customer service are provided by in-kind donations from the program sponsors and by part of the processing fee included in the cost of the medicine. For more information visit www.FamilyWize.org.

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***Note to Editors:** Below is a sample discount card that can be cut out and used.

<i>familywize</i> ® PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISCOUNT CARD	
WWW.FAMILYWIZE.ORG	
These cards are being distributed nationwide, free of charge by the FamilyWize Partnership and participating United Way agencies, county agencies, community and faith-based organizations, some pharmacies, and schools. Discounts are provided by and available only at participating pharmacies. Some restrictions apply. Benefits subject to change without notice.	Member ID: 070707
	Group ID: 39201
	Bin: 610194
	PCN: FW
	Pharmacies: 877-HELP-977
	Members: 866-810-3784
	Expires: 12/31/2012
THIS IS NOT INSURANCE - DISCOUNTS ONLY	Copies Permitted

When you present this card and your prescription to a participating pharmacy, you pay either the discounted or the pharmacy's retail price, whichever is lower. Your card can be used often as needed.