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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 24, 2009

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MEDIA ADVISORY

United Way of Central Minnesota Announces Community Investments

The United Way Board of Directors announced funding decisions of \$3,016,643 to 48 area non-profit organizations and special initiatives focused on education, income, health and basic needs. Earlier this year, the United Way Board defined outcomes in each of the priority areas and focused 5% of the allocable funds on financial stability, given the current need in the community.

“Good people tend to step up in incredible ways in difficult times,” stated Greg Vandal, 2009 United Way Campaign Chair. A longtime volunteer and current Superintendent for Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools, Vandal is confident that Central Minnesota will respond to the economic challenges we face, by “digging deeper, for there are so many struggling families in our midst who simply depend on the services supported by United Way.”

Forty-seven local community volunteers screened and evaluated proposals and requests for funding. “This was a challenging year with fewer dollars to distribute and yet I found the commitment and compassion of the community investment volunteers was so impressive,” cites Jeanne Soleim, United Way Community Investment team chair. “The tough decisions that they made were in no way a reflection of the quality of programs in our community, it’s a circumstance of fewer resources available”.

“We earmarked 5% of the allocable dollars towards financial stability programs to support the demand for these basic necessities in life”, said Noreen J. Dunnells, Chief Professional Officer for United Way of Central Minnesota, “Our work in the community includes many resources in addition to this funding, and as non-profits continue to struggle to assist those who need the most help, we will continue to support those partners in any way we can”.

For more information, contact Jessica Johnson at United Way at 252-0227 or Noreen Dunnells at 229-3504.

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