



United Way
of Steele County

NEWS RELEASE

DATE: January 29, 2009

TO: Steele County News Media (Attention: News Directors)

FROM: Evelina Giobbe, Executive Director (507-455-1180)

SUBJECT: United Way Program saves residents \$8,034.19 in RX costs in 2008

United Way saves Steele County Residents \$8,034.19 on Prescription Drug in 2008

If you don't have health insurance, or you need medicine not covered by your insurance plan, a new discount card distributed by the United Way of Steele County can help lower the cost of your medicine by an average 51%. United Way provides these cards in our community free-of-charge to everyone who needs one. There are no age restriction, no income restrictions, no limit on how many times you can use it and no waiting to get a card.

"Healthcare costs are one of the top concerns in our community. Too many people don't have prescription coverage or need medications not covered by their insurance, Medicare, Medicaid or VA benefits," said Evelina Giobbe, United Way Executive Director. "During this period of economic insecurity, everyone from laid off workers to two-parent working families to seniors citizens living on a fixed income need a little help to pay for medications."

The FamilyWize prescription drug discount card helps individuals and families stay healthy by helping them buy the medicine they need at prices they can afford. In 2008, Steele county residents saved over \$8,000.00 on prescription drug costs. Since the United Way began distributing discount cards in 2007, community members saved a total of \$20,256.24 on their prescriptions, an average of \$35.97 each.

FamilyWize cards are accepted at most pharmacies including Cashwise, Wal-Mart, Target, Walgreen and Sterling Drugs. The discount cards are available free of charge from the United Way at 144 West Main Street or online at www.unitedwaysteelecounty.org. Cards also can be obtained from all Kmart Pharmacies.

The United Way of Steele County has joined with 750 United Ways in all 50 states to save people \$30 million in the next year on the cost of their medicine. So far, more than 10 million cards have been distributed. Community members can find more information on the program's website at www.FamilyWize.com, including a tool to look up drug prices, participating pharmacies and print additional cards for family, friends and co-workers.