

# Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## United Way Helps Families Cover Prescription Costs

For individuals or families who do not have health insurance, or need medications not covered by their insurance plan, the United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley is continuing its distribution of the FamilyWize prescription drug discount cards.

Since October 2007, when the United Way first offered this card, over \$530,000 has been saved in Mahoning County including \$37,000 in savings last month alone. On average, the cards lower the cost of medication by 30% or more. United Way is providing these cards free-of-charge to the community. There are no age restrictions, income restrictions, or limit on how many times the card can be used.

FamilyWize cards can be obtained from the United Way website at [www.ymvunitedway.org](http://www.ymvunitedway.org) or by calling 330.746.8494. Local pharmacies including Giant Eagle, Target, and CVS will also have cards available for customers and the public at all of their locations. Local businesses and employers can get cards to give all their employees.

"Healthcare costs are one of the top concerns for people in our community," said Tara Mady, Director of Marketing and Communications at United Way. "40% of adults do not purchase the medications they need, have difficulty affording it or reduce the required dosage because of the high cost. The FamilyWize prescription drug discount cards will help individuals and families who otherwise could not afford to buy the medications they need."

Additional information about this program, including drug prices and a list of participating pharmacies, is available at [www.FamilyWize.org](http://www.FamilyWize.org).



### **ABOUT THE UNITED WAY OF YOUNGSTOWN AND THE MAHONING VALLEY**

In existence since 1919, the United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley is a non-profit organization that raises and distributes funds to over 70 programs of 27 local health and service agencies. Each year, approximately one out of every four people in the Mahoning Valley receives services from a United Way-funded agency. The mission of the United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley is to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of the Mahoning Valley.

### **ABOUT THE FAMILYWIZE PARTNERSHIP**

In the spring of 2005, Dan and Susan Barnes decided to give a supply of free prescription drug discount cards to the Family Centers in the local schools in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. They had heard of families who were having difficulty buying the medicine they needed because of the high cost and they wanted to do what they could to reduce the cost of prescriptions for families in the Lehigh Valley. The Family Centers involved the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, who asked 25 of its partner agencies to help distribute the cards to individuals and families in need throughout the area. Almost immediately, Dan and Susan received requests to provide this free assistance to other communities. As a result, they established the FamilyWize Community Service Partnership in the fall of 2005.

They invited a group of local and national companies to join together to provide this free assistance to people in need across the county. Now, more than twenty five thousand community and faith-based organizations, county and municipal agencies, doctors, pharmacies, public and private companies, and individuals across the country have joined together to reduce the cost of medicine for people in one out every three counties in the United States. More than 900 participating United Way agencies and America's Promise Alliance Partners in all 50 states have volunteered to coordinate the local distribution of the free FamilyWize prescription drug discount cards. One of the most common questions is how the cards can be distributed for free. The answer is that the savings on the cost of the medicine is provided voluntarily by the more than 55,000 participating local pharmacies that have agreed to accept prices for medications that are close to the prices they make available to large insurance companies. FedEx Express provides the shipping. Brown Printing, Independent Graphics and Rob-Win Press, located in the greater Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania provide the printing. Sappi Fine Paper provides part of the paper and the Pharmacy Benefit Manager provides part of the processing fee included in the cost of the medicine to cover the administrative costs. For more information, visit [www.FamilyWize.org](http://www.FamilyWize.org).

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