

For Immediate Release

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United Way Spring Day of Caring a Success!

\$132,600 in volunteer time donated during 3rd Annual Spring Day of Caring, May 14th, 2008

Greater Seacoast Region – Organized by United Way of the Greater Seacoast, the 3rd Annual United Way Spring Day of Caring enables volunteer teams from local businesses and community organizations to complete one-time service projects to benefit area non-profit agencies and their clients. Over 800 volunteers contributed their time across the Greater Seacoast region Wednesday, May 14th, marking a growth of 100 volunteers for the second year in a row and totaling a value of \$132,600 of service time.

“At United Way, we know there is more than one way to help make a difference in our community. Day of Caring is an incredible example of how much can be accomplished when we come together as a community to give, advocate and volunteer,” said United Way Executive Director Sue Suter.

Thirty groups of volunteers from businesses and the community worked with 43 non-profits across the region on projects including fixing up the Great Bay Kids Company playground, building a patio for seniors at The Homemakers Health Services, clean up at Seacoast Interfaith Hospitality Network, and landscaping at the NHSPCA.

“These are projects that non-profits can’t afford to pay for and don’t have time to do because they’re too busy taking care of our community, our kids and our parents,” said Liza Dube, United Way spokesperson. “It’s about more than fixing up a yard, it’s about allowing non-profits to focus on providing services without worrying about annual maintenance.”

Many companies now take advantage of both the Spring and Fall Days of Caring in order to allow more employees the chance to volunteer. “For some companies, the fall was too busy a time to allow employees to take the day off or didn’t fit into everyone’s schedule. Now with the option of Spring and Fall, we’re seeing more and more volunteers for both days each year,” said Helen Long, Day of Caring director for United Way of the Greater Seacoast.

One of those companies is Liberty Mutual Insurance, the prime sponsor of this year’s event with a \$7,000 contribution and the most volunteers from any local company with over 400 participants. Sr. Vice President of Liberty Mutual and UWGS board member Stuart McGuigan said, “United Way’s two Days of Caring are a very effective way for us to give our employees an opportunity to give back to the communities where we live and work. Our neighbors, our employees and our company all benefit.”

Sponsors for the event are: Gold Sponsor (\$7,000) Liberty Mutual; Silver Sponsors (\$4,000) Citizen's Bank, Bottomline Technologies; Bronze Sponsors (\$1,500) Timberland, Unitil, Exeter Health Resources, FPL Energy Seabrook Station, Newmarket International, Public Service of NH, Sprague Energy, Heinemann, Lonza Biologics.

PHOTOS:

Amanda from Liberty Mutual adds some color to the patio at Homemakers Health Services in Rochester.

Volunteers from Citizens Bank fix up the playground at Rochester Childcare Center.

Lonza employees take a well-deserved break at Great Bay Kids Company in Exeter.

Rachel from Strafford County Board of Realtors makes Dover's Our House for Girls feel like home.

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United Way of the Greater Seacoast (UWGS) is a locally governed nonprofit organization focused on finding the causes of our community's most pressing needs in order to create lasting solutions. UWGS develops, supports and works in groundbreaking partnerships to build a community where people working side-by-side create stability, wellbeing and opportunity for all of us. For more information, visit www.uwgs.org.

