

For Immediate Release
June 9-19, 2008



Contact:

Liza Dube, Sr. Dir. Marketing & Communications, UWGS
Cell: 603.957.1610 - ldube@uwgs.org
Mark Whitney, VP Strategy, Exeter Health Resources
603.580.7437 - mwhitney@ehr.org



United Way of the Greater Seacoast, Exeter Hospital to host community issues forums

PORTSMOUTH – United Way of the Greater Seacoast (UWGS), in partnership with Exeter Hospital and its operating affiliates: Core Physicians, Exeter Healthcare and Rockingham VNA, is conducting a comprehensive assessment of health and human services needs in the region to help drive the direction of their community work in the region for the next several years. One of the most important aspects of the needs assessment is a series of 7 forums held across the Greater Seacoast region for community leaders to provide input about the needs they see in their own cities and towns.

Each forum will include a brief presentation of health and human services data collected over the past several months and preliminary results from a phone survey conducted by the UNH Survey Center. The primary intent of each forum, however, is to gather input from community leaders about what they perceive as their area's greatest health and human services needs.

United Way used the 2004 community assessment to identify and prioritize the community's needs with the goal of creating long-lasting changes by addressing the underlying causes of problems, not just addressing the symptoms. Results from the 2008 assessment will be used to benchmark success, and ensure that focus remains correct.

Exeter Hospital and its affiliates last conducted a community needs assessment in 2003. Exeter will share data from the 2008 needs assessment with other collaborating health and human services organizations, and the final report will help guide Exeter's continued efforts to meet the needs of the communities it serves.

Forums will be held in Raymond, Portsmouth, Rochester, Dover, Hampton, Kingston, and Exeter throughout mid-June. Topics discussed will include issues relating to social environments, income and health. For further information about a forum being held in your town, contact Brenda at 436.5554 x. 22. **For media inquiries regarding the forums, contact Liza Dube at United Way, 436.5554 x. 23 or Mark Whitney at Exeter Health Resources, 580.7437.**

A downloadable version of the 2004 community assessment can be found at www.uwgs.org/communityassessment.cfm.

#

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.