

**For Immediate Release  
June 20, 2008**

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**United Way Community Challenge Road Race – Nearly 300 runners at first-ever event!**

NEWINGTON, NH – Nearly 300 runners arrived Thursday evening to run through Newington in the first-ever *United Way Community Challenge* 4-mile road race, an event organized to highlight the idea that healthy communities begin with healthy individuals.

Dover's Scott Rowe took the men's title finishing in 20 minutes, 49 seconds, nearly two minutes faster than second-place finisher John Tuttle (22:41) of Alton. Leslie Dillon, came in first for the women with a time of 24:23.

Organizers of the event were thrilled by the turnout. "With nearly 300 runners, we are counting our first race as an unqualified success," said Liza Dube, United Way spokesperson. "There's been an outpouring of support from the community – from our sponsors to our volunteers, to the town of Newington and the runners themselves, we'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks."

United Way hopes the event will become a new running tradition in the area. "This year was just the beginning. With such a beautiful course, and a really well run event, next year we hope for an even greater turnout, and expect the *Community Challenge* to become a part of area runners' annual schedules," said Dube.

The *United Way Community Challenge* was underwritten entirely by the following sponsors: Café Services, Comcast, Exeter Health Resources, Fitness Revolution, Hannaford Supermarkets, Lonza, Northeast Credit Union, Portsmouth Regional Hospital, Runner's Alley, Seacoast Coca-Cola, Sheds USA, Thermo Fisher Scientific, and Vitamin Water.

All proceeds from the race will go directly towards United Way's work addressing the underlying causes of issues concerning education, income and health in the Seacoast community in order to create long-lasting solutions.

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*United Way of the Greater Seacoast (UWGS) is a locally governed nonprofit organization working to advance the common good by focusing on the building blocks for a good life – education, income and health. UWGS develops, supports and works in groundbreaking partnerships in the Greater Seacoast region of NH and Southern Maine to create long-lasting changes that prevent problems from happening in the first place and create opportunities for a better life for all. For more information, visit [www.uwgs.org](http://www.uwgs.org).*