



Media Contact:  
Cris Adams, United Way of St. Lucie County  
Phone: (772) 464-5300

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 17, 2008

**ST. LUCIE COUNTY ALLOCATES FEDERAL FUNDS AWARDED UNDER THE  
EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER NATIONAL BOARD PROGRAM**

**FORT PIERCE, FL** – St. Lucie County has been chosen to receive \$122,871 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the county. The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; The Salvation Army; United Jewish Communities and United Way of America. The Local Board is charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the country.

A Local Board chaired by Cris Adams, Vice President of Community Impact for the United Way of St. Lucie County and comprised of members representing the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, Mustard Seed Ministries, Catholic Charities, St. Lucie County Community Services, two members at large, one of whom is a former homeless person, determined how the funds awarded to St. Lucie County are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local nonprofit organizations. The local board met Thursday, April 3, 2008 to determine a plan for this year's local funding. The emergency food and shelter programs that received funding for this phase are as follows: Mustard Seed Ministries received \$85,371 for their mass shelter and heat, mortgage and energy assistance programs; Save Our Children received \$5,000 for their food program; St. Vincent de Paul Society received \$12,500 to be used for their Energy Assistance Program; Treasure Coast Food Bank received \$5,000 to provide food, rent and mortgage assistance; SafeSpace received

\$10,000 for their mass shelter, and Plant a Seed Ministries received \$5,000 for rent and mortgage assistance program.

The Local Board's plan will be submitted to the national board for approval. Funding will be distributed to local recipient organizations within one month of review by the national board. The agencies will receive 50% of their funding after the one month review and receive the additional funding after July 31, 2008.

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