

**For Immediate Release  
January 14, 2009**

**Contact:** Liza Dube  
Sr. Director, Marketing & Communications  
Cell: 603.957.1610 - [ldube@uwgs.org](mailto:ldube@uwgs.org)

**United Way dispatches volunteers, awards local Red Cross with \$10,000 emergency grant for December ice storm relief**

Portsmouth & Greater Seacoast - As the winter weather continues, and the Seacoast community braces itself for the long season still ahead, United Way of the Greater Seacoast responded to this winter's most destructive storm, and the community's need for preparation for future storms, with volunteers and an emergency grant to the Great Bay Chapter of the American Red Cross.

During the storm, United Way contacted over 200 emergency response and other active volunteers registered through United Way's Volunteer Action Center and continues to accept applications for volunteers on its website, [www.uwgs.org](http://www.uwgs.org).

Following the aftermath of the storm, United Way's Board of Directors approved a \$10,000 grant in support of the Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund and the Local Disaster Fund to allow for replenishment of monies spent in response to December's ice storm, and to allow the region's Red Cross to prepare for any future disasters in the area.

Jamie Devlin, of the Great Bay Chapter of the Red Cross said, "During the December ice storm, hundreds of New Hampshire citizens sought refuge in Red Cross shelters. Pre-planning, well thought-out partnership agreements and a lot of hard work made sure that almost all of those shelters were open for residents the very next day after the storms hit." Devlin added, "The United Way grant will help us continue to be prepared for whatever our region may face in the future."

Sue Suter, Executive Director of United Way of the Greater Seacoast said, "We believe emergency preparedness is a need that we must continue to address in our region, and we're very pleased to be able to support the Great Bay Red Cross through our volunteer and our financial resources."

The New Hampshire Chapters of the American Red Cross opened more than 20 shelters, providing food, cots, counseling and a warm place to stay for over 1300 individuals, including those in the Seacoast region. Hundreds of volunteers, many of whom were also affected by power loss, made sure the shelters were open and people felt welcome.

The emergency grant from United Way was drawn from a pool of money designated specifically for natural disasters. For those interested in becoming a disaster response volunteer, pre-registration is available on the "volunteer" page of [www.uwgs.org](http://www.uwgs.org).

---

*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).*