



**United Way
of Bradley County**

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United Way and FamilyWize saving Bradley Countians on prescriptions

The partnership between FamilyWize and United Way of Bradley County has saved local residents nearly half a million dollars the past 2 ½ years, and those savings continue today.

The FamilyWize prescription discount card program, in conjunction with United Ways all across the country, has helped millions of people save an average of up to 30 percent on medicines. There is no cost associated with participating in the program.

In Bradley County alone, over 20,000 people have taken advantage of the prescription discount card program since it began locally in January 2007.

“We are pleased to have been able to help so many in our community save money on their prescriptions through this program,” said United Way of Bradley County President and CEO Brenda Abel. “We are also so thankful for the pharmacies in our community who joined with us in the program when it began, and continue to provide this service to those in need in our area.”

The FamilyWize program began in 2005, when Dan and Susan Barnes decided to give a supply of free prescription drug discount cards to the Family Centers in the local schools in Bethlehem, Pa. The Family Centers there involved the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, and almost immediately, the Barnes were asked to provide this free assistance to other communities. As a result, they established the FamilyWize Community Service Partnership in the fall of 2005.

The prescription discount card is for those who do not have health insurance, or must buy medicine not covered by their insurance plan. The program is free-of-charge to anyone who needs it, and there are no age restrictions, no limit on how many times it can be used and no waiting to get a card.

From its first involvement with United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, the partnership then evolved into working in conjunction with United Ways across the country.

United Way of Bradley County joined the program in January 2007, with 4,000 cards to distribute to the community. The United Way of Bradley County has also posted the cards on its website, where it can be downloaded and printed, and provided links directly to the FamilyWize website where the cards are also available.

"We wanted to make it as easy as possible for people in our community to save on prescription drugs. Too many people have insufficient or no prescription coverage or need medications not covered by their insurance, Medicare, Medicaid or VA benefits," said Abel. "Healthcare costs are one of the top concerns for people in the community and these discount cards will help individuals and families who otherwise could not afford the medicine they need.

"Through June 2009, FamilyWize reports that Bradley County has had 20,006 claims by those using the prescription discount card, with a total savings since January 2007 of \$432,573.12," Abel said.

"Even more amazing is that Bradley Countians are seeing more than the average 30 percent savings. FamilyWize tells us that the average savings for those in our community using the card is approximately 42 percent," she added. This relates to an average savings of \$21.52 per prescription.

Three counties in Tennessee have seen over 20,000 claims through the FamilyWize program. As of June 2009, Rhea County reports 29,232 claims, with a savings of nearly \$1 million there, while Coffee County reported 28,133 claims and savings of just over \$390,000.

In Tennessee, savings of \$3,376,630.30 has been realized since the inception of the FamilyWize prescription discount card program.

The savings on the cost of the medicine is provided by the more than 53,000 participating local pharmacies that have agreed voluntarily to accept prices for medications that are close to the prices they make available to large insurance companies and employers. All funding for this program is provided by part of the processing fee that is included in the cost of medicines paid for at the time of purchase and by in-kind donations and reduced costs from the program sponsors.

Pharmacies in Bradley County that are participating in the FamilyWize program include:

- Bi-Lo Pharmacy
- Cherokee Pharmacy
- Crawford Pharmacy
- CVS Pharmacy
- Ford Pharmacy
- Genoa Healthcare
- Kmart Pharmacy
- Medi-Life of Tennessee
- Medi-Mart Pharmacy
- Medical Center Pharmacy
- Ocoee Professional Pharmacy
- Pharmacy Home Delivery LLC
- Rite Aid Pharmacy
- Super Discount Pharmacy
- Target Pharmacy
- Tri Med Pharmacy
- Walgreen Drug Store
- Wal-Mart Supercenter

“We want to thank these pharmacies for their support of this program,” Abel stressed. “Working together is what United Way is about, and you can see that partnership in this program. It has helped and continues to help so many people in our community.”

To print off the FamilyWize prescription discount card, go to the United Way website at www.unitedwaybc.com or the FamilyWize website at www.FamilyWize.org.

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