



**United Way
of Bradley County**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Allen Mincey, Communications
(423) 472-9876 (office)
(423) 339-1110 (fax)
Email: allen.mincey@unitedway.org

FOR RELEASE:

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United Way announces second round of grant workshops

**(Organizations applying for Bradley County
grants also required to attend)**

Nine programs providing assistance to Bradley County residents, from youth to elderly, received funding for this year through United Way of Bradley County grants made possible from the 2005 sale of Bradley Memorial Hospital.

The United Way is announcing today the schedule of three workshops for programs wishing to apply for grants for the 2010 calendar year. This is the same process as those applying and receiving the first round of grants -- the applicant is required to have a representative attend one of three upcoming grant preparation workshops coordinated by United Way.

These workshops are scheduled for three different days in July, and will be held at the Cleveland-Bradley Chamber of Commerce. All workshops are expected to last approximately two hours.

The schedule for the workshops is:

- **Wednesday, July 8, 9 a.m.**
- **Tuesday, July 14, 1 p.m.**
- **Thursday, July 16, 3 p.m.**

Organizations interested in applying for funding are required to attend one of these workshops. These workshops will review the application in detail and offer time to answer any questions that participants might have. The application for United Way grants is only available for pick up at these workshops.

Matt Ryerson, United Way Vice President of Community Investment Strategies, said that each workshop will be identical, so attendance is only required at one of the sessions.

"We heard from many applicants who were very pleased with the workshops last year, as they helped them better prepare their grant requests," Ryerson said. "The United Way is excited about the opportunity to facilitate this process, and we hope to see a number of program representatives in attendance and applying for these valuable community funds."

There were some organizations that attended the workshops in 2008 that discovered they did not meet eligibility requirements to apply for the grants. However, many said that attending one of the workshops helped them learn what they might need in order to apply in the future, whether for the United Way grants or other grants.

Some organizations seeking grants from Bradley County were also in attendance last year. Bradley County also received funds from the sale of Bradley Memorial Hospital and they have distributed capital project grants.

"The Healthy Community Initiative Committee this year has made it mandatory to attend one of the grant workshops prior to applying for a Bradley County grant," said Third District County Commissioner and HCI Committee Chair Lisa Stanbery. "The HCI Committee feels that community organizations will be better prepared to submit a competitive application with the knowledge gained by participants during these informative workshops hosted by the United Way."

Grants from United Way help fund community programs, while Bradley County grants will go toward capital projects.

"We are really excited to be partnering so closely with the Healthy Community Initiative and the County Commission to make this process more clear and less complicated," Ryerson said. "I believe everyone involved has the best interests of our citizens at heart and we are happy to be a small part of this effort."

The United Way and HCI Committee have coordinated their timelines to coincide, so the deadline for applying for all grants is the same – Thursday, Aug. 31 at 4 p.m. Grants are to be announced in October.

The hospital agreement specifies that a percentage of the income from investment of the funds United Way received from the sale of the hospital shall go to helping provide local grants to parties that have 501(c)3 non-profit status and have programs that will address community needs in either of three specific areas: healthcare, wellness or quality of life.

These areas are defined, by the agreement between the hospital trustees and United Was, as:

- Healthcare – Programs or projects that serve unmet healthcare needs in Bradley County regardless of ability to pay.
- Wellness – Programs or projects that educate the Bradley County community about the physical and mental aspects of maintaining and improving personal health.
- Quality of Life – Programs or services that enhance or improve the physical or mental health of the citizens of Bradley County.

Ryerson said that the agreement was very specific that the organizations have their 501(c)3 designation and address these areas, so the workshops will be very important to those seeking grants to know if they meet these criteria.

Ryerson said that if anyone has a question about the grant application process, they may contact him at the United Way at 472-9876 or by email at mryerson@unitedwaybc.com.

Anyone with questions about the County Commission Healthy Community Initiative fund may contact Amy Moore at 728-7105 or by email at amoore@bradleyco.net.