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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Free Discount Drug Prescription Cards Available

FamilyWize prescription drug discount cards are being distributed throughout the county free of charge, courtesy of United Way of Knox County, and their-kind donation of discount prescription cards coordinated by Membership Services Corporation and its industry partners.

Last year, Knox County pharmacies reported the cards were used 10,426 times. Individuals collectively saved \$146,428 off of their submitted fee of nearly \$450,000 resulting in an average savings of \$14.32 each time they used the Familywize card.

"Too many area families have insufficient or no prescription drug coverage," said Joy Harris, director of Interchurch Social Services, a United Way partner agency. "Healthcare costs are a serious issue for many of our families and over the past year we have seen the FamilyWize discount prescription drug card help many families who otherwise could not have afforded much needed prescription drugs."

FamilyWize cards assist people who have no prescription coverage with the cost of obtaining their prescription drugs. Cards are now available at the following United Way partner agencies: Alcohol and Drug Freedom Center, all branches of Interchurch Social Services, The Salvation Army of Mount Vernon, Moundbuilders Guidance Center, Knox County Head Start, and New Directions Domestic Abuse Shelter. Cards are also available from the following community partners: CHAP, The Area Agency on Aging, Knox Community Hospital, and the Knox County Health Department.

Anyone with Internet access can download and print a card by visiting www.familywize.com. Most pharmacies in the United States accept these prescription drug discount cards. There is no usage limits, age requirements or registration forms to complete. Individuals can save simply by showing their Familywize card. Knox County residents can help by telling and emailing family and friends to let them know about this free resource.

The goal of the FamilyWize partnership is to reduce the cost of medicine for children, families and individuals nationally by \$100 million. The FamilyWize community service partnership was established in 2005 by Dan and Susan Barnes to reduce the cost of medicine for people who live and work in Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania. United Ways and other communities quickly heard about the program and started asking if they could get cards for their communities. Sadly, most families in the United States are in need of a FamilyWize card, either because they have no health insurance or they have to buy medicine that is not covered by their insurance, Medicaid or Medicare plans.

"Membership Services Corporation and its industry partners are very excited to partner with over 670 United Way agencies to get the FamilyWize card into the hands of families who most need the help," said Dan Barnes, President of Membership Services Corporation. "The goal of this community service program is to deliver \$100 million in prescription drug savings to people with no prescription drug coverage. Working together, we are making a difference, a \$100 million difference."

To obtain more information and a Familywize discount prescription card, or information on other United Way Financial Stability programs, contact United Way of Knox County at 397-5721 or go online to www.familywize.com.

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