



**United Way of  
Indian River County**

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Media Release**

### **Community Partners Team Up to Offer Guidance for Surviving the Economic Downturn**

*United Way and Area Organizations offering a series of "Recession Survival Workshops"*

*Vero Beach, FL:* United Way of Indian River County today announced that they are teaming up with area organizations to offer a series of Recession Survival Workshops. The first will be held Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:15 at the Gifford Youth Activity Center at 4875 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. The workshops are free and open to the public, snacks and childcare are provided. Materials, including the recently updated and revised "Recession Survival Guide" (published by the United Way) will be made available for free.

The workshops will cover a variety of cost-saving techniques including low cost food options and low cost medical assistance programs. In addition, information on over 40 area services will be highlighted. Speakers include: Lisa London, Community Outreach Director for the United Way, Page Woodward, Program Outreach Coordinator 2-1-1 of the Treasure Coast, Sue Rux, Director of Operations for the Mental Health Association, and Jeanne Butten from Access Florida. Those interested in attending should RSVP to 567-8900, ext 11.

"So many people are finding themselves having to access services, some for the first time. We felt it was vital to let residents know what services they can turn to," said United Way CEO Michael Kint. Just one unanticipated expense—a car breakdown, an uninsured illness, a week without a paycheck can lead to crisis. "More and more, hard working individuals and families are unable to get ahead financially -- this is especially true for those living on fixed incomes, the disabled and elderly," added Kint.

### **Part of a New Initiative from United Way**

The workshops are part of a new Family Financial Stability initiative from United Way that focuses on increasing income, building savings and stabilizing family finances. Since its introduction in September 2008, the initiative has provided emergency utility and rental/mortgage assistance, has promoted the use of the Familywise Discount Prescription card (saving Indian River County residents over \$162,000) and has promoted free tax preparation through AARP's Tax-Wise program and the VITA program. "There is no more important work we could be doing right now than finding ways to help people save money, stave off financial crisis, and build a solid financial foundation," said United Way Board President Michael Kmetz.