



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**QUALITY OF LIFE IMPROVED FOR 5.4 MILLION PEOPLE, DUE TO THE COMBINE  
EFFORTS OF UNITED WAYS AND FAMILYWIZE.  
3,921 people in our local community save \$507,166 on medicine.**

**Fredericksburg, VA, May 17, 2013,** - Rappahannock United Way and FamilyWize Community Service Partnerships, the nation's leading provider of free prescriptions, along with 1,000 other local United Ways reached the milestone of improving the quality of life for over 5 million people by helping them receive medication that they normally could not afford. Local participants in this free program collectively saved \$507,166 when purchasing vital medications.

According to a 2008 study by the Harvard School of Public Health, 4 in 10 Americans have trouble affording their prescriptions. Sadly, the situation has worsened in recent years due to high unemployment rates, lack of insurance coverage, and a dramatic increase in prescription drug prices. The latest data released by the U.S Center for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics states that the number of Americans who forgo purchasing prescribed medication due to cost nearly doubled from 4.8 to 8.4%. This new percentage translates to nearly 25 million Americans.

"Rappahannock United Way is committed to helping families improve healthy behaviors in effort to reduce health risk factors. By helping individuals and families afford their medications, we lower the risk of manageable conditions becoming chronic," says Janel Donohue, President of Rappahannock United Way. "Not only are chronic conditions more costly to treat, but 25% of people with chronic diseases have some type of activity limitation. These limitations could keep individuals from attending work or school and contribute overall to a poor quality of life for their families."

Since 2005, FamilyWize, United Ways, and pharmacies nationwide have partnered to make the free prescription discount card easily accessible through social service agencies, local government, faith-based organizations, schools, and community centers. Both agencies, FamilyWize and United Way, provide steps to obtaining free prescription discount card on their websites and also offer a digital version of the prescription discount card via text. Individuals simply text "family" to 700700 and they will immediately receive a Rx prescription cards that they can use to obtain up to 75% savings on medications bought at participating pharmacies.

The goal of FamilyWize Community Service Partnership is to reduce the cost of prescription medicine for children, families, and individuals by \$1 billion by the end of 2015 and this exciting milestone marks the halfway point to reaching this goal.

Rappahannock United Way and FamilyWize encourage communities to help spread the word about the free Rx cards to the one in five Americans that are without prescription

drug coverage. In its annual report, FamilyWize states that “no one should have to choose between buying medicine or food, utilities, rent, and other necessities.” The organization strives to improve access to healthcare and help people get the medicine they need.

For more information about the free prescription cards you can log onto Rappahannock United Way’s website at [www.RappahannockUnitedWay.org](http://www.RappahannockUnitedWay.org) or call (540) 373-0041 ext. 300. To learn more about FamilyWize or to search for participating pharmacies nearby and potential savings, visit [www.FamilyWize.org](http://www.FamilyWize.org).

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**About Rappahannock United Way:** Founded in 1939, Rappahannock United Way is a local nonprofit organization serving the city of Fredericksburg, and the counties of Caroline, King George, Spotsylvania and Stafford. Rappahannock United Way is working to advance the common good by focusing on education, income and health. These are the building blocks for a good life—a quality education that leads to a stable job, enough income to support a family through retirement, and good health. Our goal is to create long-lasting changes that prevent problems from happening in the first place.

We invite our community to be part of the change. Together, united, we can inspire hope and create opportunities for a better tomorrow. That’s what it means to LIVE UNITED.