

Lake Area United Way

The Colby Building
221 W. Ridge Road
Griffith, IN 46319-1097
Phone: (219) 923-2302
Fax: (219) 923-8601
www.lauw.org

Re



Contact: Robert Scott
Vice President, Communications & Marketing
May 27, 2009

bscott@lauw.org
219-923-2302, Ext. 314
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Emergency Food & Shelter Program to Distribute \$157,245 In Extra Funds Made Available by Economic Stimulus Bill

Additional Federal Funds to Help Recently Unemployed

The City of Gary and the balance of Lake County will soon receive an additional \$157,245 in extra federal funds to help local residents affected by the current economic crisis for rent, mortgage, utility and food assistance.

These funds are being made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), signed into legislation by President Barack Obama on February 17, 2009.

The City of Gary was awarded \$30,021 which will be used to supplement emergency food programs administered through Greater Hammond Community Services as well as rent and mortgage assistance through Catholic Family Services.

The balance of Lake County was awarded \$127,224 which will be distributed to Greater Hammond Community Services for food assistance, Catholic Family Services for rent and mortgage assistance, and The Salvation Army of Lake County for utility assistance.

The determination of how much local communities received was made by a National EFSP Board chaired by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; The Salvation Army; United Jewish Communities; and United Way of America.

Two local Boards, one serving Gary and the other serving the rest of Lake County, are charged with distributing funds appropriated by Congress to help expand service capacity of food and shelter programs to recently unemployed persons residing in high-need areas around the country. Lake Area United Way (LAUW) serves as the lead organization.

"These agencies qualified as local recipients under the terms of the grant from the National Board in part because they are able to reach individuals who have become unemployed or underemployed since October, 2008," said Dave Sikes, Director of Allocations/AFL-CIO Community Services Liaison on staff at LAUW.

"With unemployment skyrocketing, many working families are seeking assistance for the first time," Sikes said. "These extra Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds will certainly help."

#