

*United Way of Bay County
For Immediate Release
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New Tax Check Off Helps Basic Needs

Basic needs for Michigan's families have never been higher and this tax season there is an easy way you can help. When filing your 2009 state taxes don't forget to check off for the United Way Fund to easily donate to your local United Way.



The newly created United Way Fund bill was sponsored by Bay County Representative Jeff Mayes and was created to help low to moderate income Michigan families with basic needs like food, clothing and shelter. Donors can indicate if they want to donate all or part of their Michigan tax return on form 4642, 2009 Michigan Voluntary Contributions Schedule, of their state income tax return.

There are 11 check offs on form 4642 but what makes the **United Way Fund** unique is ALL money donated will directly benefit needy families with basic needs assistance in the donor's immediate area. **If you live in Bay County your donation comes directly to United Way of Bay County.**

United Way of Bay County Call Center saw a 211% increase in requests for food in 2009 compared to 2008. "We anticipate the requests for basic needs to continue to skyrocket as more families are failing to make ends meet," stated Jennifer Carroll, CEO/Executive Director of United Way. "Families who were able to stretch their dollars are left with no where to turn when their unemployment benefits run out."

For more information on the United Way Fund or to find opportunities to give, advocate or volunteer in the Bay County area, please call 893-7508 or visit unitedwaybaycounty.org.

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