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**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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United Way Hosts 2009 Day of Caring Thursday, April 16

Lowell, ARK – United Way of Northwest Arkansas will host the 2009 Day of Caring on Thursday, April 16. Day of Caring is an event centered on encouraging people to LIVE UNITED in their community through volunteerism.

Many of the participants are coming from workplaces across Northwest Arkansas; more than 100 groups, or 760 people, have signed up to volunteer their time at 49 organizations across the area. Each company involved realizes the importance of giving time to the community is just as important a resource as money.

Groups are working on projects ranging from landscaping and client parties, to general clean-up and redecoration. All of these projects help to enrich our community because these are projects that would otherwise go unfulfilled. Many times non-profit organizations have the money to buy supplies, but not the resources to pay for labor. This event helps to get those projects done, and gives those volunteering an opportunity to put sweat equity in the community.

Volunteers were able to sign-up for projects using the United Way of Northwest Arkansas volunteer website – www.volunteernwa.org. This is a website that helps to connect people to opportunities in the community, and all not-for-profit organizations are encouraged to post opportunities here year-round.

Day of Caring is also a chance to engage individuals, not just for one day, but year-round, and having one source where potential volunteers can view opportunities, like www.volunteernwa.org, is an important resource in the community.

In lieu of a traditional kick-off event, United Way board of directors and staff will be visiting volunteers at locations throughout the area to personally thank the volunteer teams for their involvement in the United Way of Northwest Arkansas 2009 Day of Caring.

Companies who are giving their employees time to volunteer as part of the Day of Caring are: Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Arvest Banks in Northwest Arkansas, Bank of America, Bank of Fayetteville, Bekaert, Benson Group, Benton County Clerks, Cintas Corp., Cobb-Vantress, Decatur State Bank, Ernst & Young, First Security Bank, Harps Food Stores, Inc., Hogan Taylor, JV Manufacturing, Kimberly Clark, Kitchen Distributors, La-Z-Boy, Liberty Bank, Northwest Medical, Outdoor Cap, Ozarks Electric Co-op, Pratt & Whitney, Procter & Gamble, SAM'S CLUB, Signature Banks in Northwest Arkansas, Simmons First Banks in Northwest Arkansas, TracyLocke, Walker Brothers Insurance, Walmart, and Washington County Sheriff's Office.

Historically, Wal-mart and Sam's Club associates make up more than half of the teams participating in Day of Caring. This year, that is true once again as they continue to be a corporate leader for community engagement in Northwest Arkansas.

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United Way of Northwest Arkansas
serving Benton, Madison, McDonald and Washington Counties



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For more information on where volunteers will be spending their time, please contact Brooke Benoit at 479.750.1221, 479.685.4930 or via e-mail at bbenoit@unitedwaynwa.org.

After April 16, visit www.unitedwaynwa.org/blog to see stories from the staff and volunteers about their experiences on this day to volunteer and LIVE UNITED in Northwest Arkansas.

About United Way of Northwest Arkansas

United Way is dedicated to helping advance the good of all in our community through focusing on key issue areas such as education, income and health to create lasting changes in our community. By engaging individuals and companies around giving, advocating and volunteering for these types of issues we can all work to Live United in Northwest Arkansas. For more information about how to Live United, please visit our website at www.unitedwaynwa.org.

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