

News Release

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United Way of Washington County-East Names Community Member New Executive Director

Stillwater, Minn. - December 8, 2008 - A Stillwater resident with a long history of program development and leadership is the new executive director of the United Way of Washington County-East. Marna Canterbury takes over as full-time executive director Dec. 15. She has been Senior Wellness Coordinator at UCare in Minneapolis the past two years.

“It’s such an honor to be serving our shared community,” said Canterbury. “One of my goals is to increase communication between local community members and our hometown United Way. Through open dialogue, we can identify and address specific community needs, especially those that are a top priority during these very difficult economic times.”

Canterbury has held a variety of positions in which she developed and implemented successful programs and built strong community partnerships. Before working at UCare, she was a health communications and grant consultant for a number of clients, including General Mills. She has also created programs for the Eating Disorder Institute in St. Louis Park and was a population health advisor for HealthPartners. She has served as a board member for number of non-profit agencies.

“Marna brings passion, dedication and an impressive track record to this job,” said Doug Smith, board president of United Way of Washington County-East. “We can’t wait for our community to reap the benefits of having someone this dynamic in this position.”

While at UCare, Canterbury developed UCan!, a senior fitness benefit that serves more than 45,000 Medicare enrollees and created a falls prevention program for low-income seniors. Her community projects at HealthPartners included the Better Health Restaurant Challenge, a five year community-wide campaign, and Warm Meals... Warm Hearts, a campaign with the Emergency Foodshelf Network to increase resources for food shelf clients.

Canterbury has won a number of awards, including the Dannon Award for Excellence in Community Nutrition and the Golden Apple Award from the Minnesota Dietetic Association. She is a registered dietitian with bachelor’s degrees in nutrition and biology from Concordia College in Moorhead and a Master of Science in Community Health from Minnesota State University-Mankato. She lives in Stillwater with her husband and two children.

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