

Washington County Collaborative Launches Transportation Survey Results will identify transportation gaps and needs across region

April 7, 2008 – Stillwater, Minnesota – A collaborative group of local nonprofit and government agencies is pleased to have launched a new survey to study the transportation needs of Washington County residents.

Social workers and human service professionals have long realized that the lack of reliable transportation is a significant barrier to individuals who are disabled, ill, unemployed, or going through a personal crisis or transition. These individuals end up missing medical appointments, therapy sessions, job interviews or classes because they simply don't have a ride. This in turn threatens their ability to overcome their situation.

But how pervasive is this problem in our community? And how should local leaders respond? The survey seeks to answer these questions.

“We are eager to learn more about the scope and severity of the transportation problem,” explains Martha Naegeli, executive director of the United Way of Washington County – East, who is administering the survey. “The insight we gain will help us more effectively address this growing problem.”

The survey will be routed in an electronic format, online and through email, and in paper format to clients seeking assistance in person from local agencies.

“We're hoping to include a large and diverse cross-section of the county,” continued Cathy Dyball, transportation program manager from Community Volunteer Service and Senior Centers. “Special care will be taken to make sure we hear from our seniors, who are most at risk when transportation resources are unavailable or inappropriate.”

The collaborative group responsible for the survey includes representatives from the American Cancer Society, Community Volunteer Service and Senior Centers, HSI, Washington County Community Services, the Washington County Workforce Center, the United Way of Washington County – East, and several other local agencies.

To learn more, please visit the United Way's website at www.uwwce.org. While there, you can click on the link to complete the transportation survey, or download a paper copy.

Survey results will be available in early June. For more information, please contact Martha Naegeli at the United Way of Washington County – East at 651-439-3838 or Cathy Dyball at Community Volunteer Service and Senior Centers at 651-439-7434.

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