

PROVIDENCE BUSINESS NEWS

March 30, 2009

UWRI Sponsors Merger Forum for Non-profits

PROVIDENCE – United Way of Rhode Island sponsored the annual Merger and Consolidation Fund Forum last week aimed at providing details on options available to members of the nonprofit community looking to merge or consolidate.

The forum, which United Way said was attended by more than 175 representatives from Rhode Island nonprofits, featured UWRI President and CEO Anthony Maione; Christian L. Stephens, president and CEO of NRI Community Services Inc., one of Rhode Island's seven regional nonprofit Community Mental Health Centers; and attorney Gary Pannone, an expert on nonprofit mergers and consolidations and a managing partner with Pannone Lopes Devereaux & West LLC.

At the forum, United Way announced its third year of funding from its \$100,000 Merger and Consolidation Fund. The fund provides financial support to human service agencies looking to merge or combine common operations.

In 2007, a \$45,000 grant from the fund helped spur the merging of the affordable housing and community-development organizations, Elmwood Foundation and Greater Elmwood Neighborhood Services, United Way said. The two nonprofits combined to become CommunityWorks RI.

A copy of the request for proposals for UWRI's Merger and Consolidation Fund is posted on UWRI's Web site, www.liveunitedri.org.