

UNITED WAY COLUMN FOR JUNE 29, 2008
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Lenawee United Way Helps Families Cover Prescription Costs

If you don't have health insurance, or need medicine not covered by your insurance plan, you need a FamilyWize prescription drug discount card being distributed by Lenawee United Way. This card could lower the cost of your medicine by an average 35%. Lenawee United Way is providing these cards free-of-charge to everyone in our community. There are no age or income restrictions, no limit on how many times you can use it and no waiting to get a card.

Healthcare costs are one of the top concerns for people in our community and 40% of adults don't buy the medicine they need, have difficulty affording it or reduce the required dosage because of the high cost. The FamilyWize prescription drug discount cards will help individuals and families who otherwise could not afford to buy the medicine they need. Too many people have insufficient coverage, no prescription coverage or need medications not covered by their insurance, Medicare, Medicaid or VA benefits.

FamilyWize cards can be obtained from all Kmart Pharmacies, many participating local pharmacies, or by calling Lenawee United Way at 517-263-4696. Local businesses and employers can also get cards to give to all of their employees.

Lenawee United Way has joined more than 675 United Ways in all 50 states to save people \$25 million in the next year on the cost of their medicine. The goal of this Partnership is to save \$100 million over the next 4 years. So far, more than 6 million cards have been distributed.

"We hope everyone in the community will take the time to thank their pharmacist, Lenawee United Way and everyone else involved for the difference they are making in the lives of so many people in the community," said Dan Barnes, Co-Chair of the FamilyWize Community Service Partnership. The participating pharmacies in the community have agreed voluntarily to accept the FamilyWize cards and provide these savings to people in need. Brown Printing of Bethlehem, PA, donates the printing for the cards, FedEx Express donates the shipping of the cards and the pharmacy benefit manager provides a portion of the processing fee to cover the administrative costs. Lenawee United Way is coordinating the distribution of the cards locally.

Additional information about this program is available at Lenawee United Way and online at www.FamilyWize.org.

This column was written by Amy Palmer, Community Investment Manager for Lenawee United Way.