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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ST. LUCIE COUNTY HAS BEEN AWARDED FEDERAL FUNDS UNDER THE
EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER NATIONAL BOARD PROGRAM**

FORT PIERCE, FL –St. Lucie County has been chosen to receive \$243,000 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the county. The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; The Salvation Army; United Jewish Communities and United Way of America. The Local Board is charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help prevent homelessness and to expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the country

A Local Board chaired by Cris Adams, Vice President of Community Impact for the United Way of St. Lucie County and comprised of members representing the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, Mustard Seed Ministries, St. Lucie County Community Services, Port St. Lucie Community Services, and two members at large, one of whom is a former homeless person, will determine how the funds awarded to St. Lucie County are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local nonprofit organizations. The Local Board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds that may become available under this phase of the program.

Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must: (1) be private voluntary non-profits or units of government, (2) have an accounting system, (3) practice non discrimination, (4) have demonstrated the capacity to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and (5) if they are a private voluntary organization,

they must have a voluntary board. Qualifying agencies are urged to apply. These will be agencies that assist individuals in reorganizing and improving the quality of their lives. No applications will be accepted from individuals.

Public or private nonprofit agencies interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds may download the application from the United Way website at: www.unitedwayslc.org. or contact Cris Adams (cris.adams@unitedwayslc.org) at the United Way of St. Lucie County for an application.

The deadline for applications to be received is Monday, February 22, 2010. Submissions received after that date will not be accepted. The local Emergency Food and Shelter board will meet shortly thereafter to determine a plan for this year's local funding. The Local Board's plan will be submitted to the national board for approval. Funding will be distributed to local recipient organizations within one month of review by the national board.

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