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United Way of the Greater Clarksville Region

Media Release

Date: September 12, 2008
For Immediate Release

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NEARLY 400 VOLUNTEERS THROUGHOUT COMMUNITY TO LIVE UNITED

This year, the United Way of the Greater Clarksville Region has again reached out and encouraged the public to get involved and live united in our community by participating in the five-day Days of Caring event.

In 1993, the United Way of Clarksville-Montgomery County launched the first Day of Caring for our community. The goal was to show people in the community how their contributions work on advancing the common good, to learn how the partner agencies of United Way affect people's lives, and to demonstrate how their support through volunteering and contributing makes a positive impact on community problems. Those Day of Caring volunteers accomplished many things including; cleaning and painting, working with disadvantaged children, delivering meals, and building wheel-chair ramps, just to name a few. That first Day of Caring was a resounding success because our local business leaders allowed their employees to take a half day, or even a full day, off with pay so their employees could volunteer their time working at any one of United Way's partner agencies.

Last year, over 380 volunteers from all walks of life in our community participated in Days of Caring. Through their efforts, important work was accomplished, but, more importantly they became actively engaged in our community and learned what an important role volunteers and non-profit organizations play in the strength and environment in our community every day.

Some examples of what volunteers will accomplish during Days of Caring this year:

- Meals for home-bound seniors will be prepared, packaged, and delivered
- Volunteers will work with the clients at the Adult Day Care program
- The inside of the Old Firehouse Day Shelter will be painted.
- The grounds of the Ajax Senior Center, United Way office, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Progressive Directions, Old Firehouse Day Shelter, and Head Start sites will be landscaped
- Volunteers will read to the children at the local Head Start sites.

This year's Days of Caring event is scheduled for September 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th. To thank and recognize volunteers, United Way will provide them with a commemorative t-shirt to wear during their volunteer time and will wrap up the Days of Caring with the annual United Way Volunteer Recognition and Campaign Kick-off celebration and Awards Ceremony on Friday, September 19th at McGregor Park on Riverside Drive.

The kick-off event will begin at 6pm on the 19th. Food will be provided free of charge on a first come first serve basis from sponsors Backyard Burgers, DQ Grill and Chill, Coca-Cola, and Golden Flake. Chain Reaction - A Tribute to Journey and Five Star Radio's Eagle 94.3 will provide music with Lee Erwin as the night's emcee. Bring your families and get a free family portrait taken by Third Eye Photography that will be printed on site. One photo per family. There will also be activities such as face painting, a hoola- hoop contest, limbo contest, and a twist contest where trophies will be awarded for the top three and all participants receive a prize. This event is free, open to the public, and paid for in part by sponsors. For more information about Days of Caring, visit the website at www.liveunitedclarksville.org or call the United Way office at (931) 647-4291.

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