



**United Way
of Tarrant County**

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For Immediate Release

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Daryl Wagoner, Asst. Vice President
Marketing/Communications
817-258-8060
Daryl.wagoner@unitedwaytarrant.org

**United Way Welcomes
New Program Partners**

The family of United Way “program partner agencies” has grown from 43 to 45 nonprofits with the addition of Meals On Wheels Inc. of Tarrant County and the Tarrant Literacy Coalition. Program partners are the agencies that are part of the annual United Way campaign.

United Way’s new ongoing relationship with Meals On Wheels and the Tarrant Literacy Coalition will ensure continuation of work United Way began with the organizations in the areas of senior isolation and adult literacy.

Meals On Wheels has received grant money from United Way for several years to help establish the “Neighbor Helping Neighbor” program. The program mobilizes volunteers in neighborhoods all over Tarrant County to provide isolated senior citizens with home repair, transportation and other assistance they need to remain independent and healthy.

The Tarrant Literacy Coalition coordinates adult literacy services, training, advocacy and community awareness in the community. Now a new, independent nonprofit, it was created by United Way three years ago after United Way identified the need for such a coalition. United Way secured resources to start the organization and recruited its initial board members.

“These two organizations have demonstrated their capacity to deliver outstanding outcomes for clients and stakeholders,” said United Way Exec. Vice Pres. and COO Ann

Rice. "Equally important, each agency provides programs that fill a unique niche in our community."

Organizations become program partners of United Way at the invitation of the United Way board of directors. The board invites organizations whose work aligns well with United Way's education, income and health priorities and who have proven themselves as United Way grant recipients. Before final board approval is granted, the agencies complete a review of their governance, management, finances and programs.

Meals On Wheels and the Tarrant Literacy Coalition officially became program partners at the January United Way board meeting. They will be eligible for program partner funding beginning in July and will be part of the 2010 United Way campaign.

Meals On Wheels Inc. of Tarrant County has operated independently in Tarrant County since 1973, serving the disabled, the elderly and other homebound persons. Carla Jutson is the executive director. According to the North Central Texas Council of Governments, the number of Tarrant County adults age 60 and older is expected to increase from 202,255 in 2007 to 347,494 in 2020.

The Tarrant Literacy Coalition became a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charitable organization last spring. The executive director is Kathryn Thompson. One in five Tarrant County adults falls into the lowest level of literacy; unable to read a prescription, fill out a job application or read a simple children's story.

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United Way of Tarrant County supports services for individuals and families at dozens of local charities and works to create long-term community change in the areas of education, income and health. For more information, go to www.unitedwaytarrant.org.