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United Way Presidential Campaign Forum Outlines Policy Priorities

- *Domestic Policy Advisors from McCain and Obama Campaigns, United Way Executives and Other Thought Leaders Discuss Policy Strategy for the Nation's Largest Charity* -

Alexandria, VA (July 21, 2008) – [United Way](#) hosted a Presidential Campaign Forum and Public Policy Experts Exchange in Alexandria, VA on July 16. Melody Barnes, Senior Domestic Policy Advisor for *Obama for America* and Doug Holtz-Eakin, Senior Domestic Policy Advisor for *Senator John McCain for President* participated in the unprecedented event that examined United Way's public policy priorities in the areas of education, income and health.

"Public policy at the local, state, and federal levels will play a key role as the United Way movement works toward meeting our ten-year national goals around education, income, and health," said Brian Gallagher, president and CEO of United Way. "We want to engage organizations, elected officials and individuals who are willing to raise their voices to make a difference on issues important to our communities."

In addition to hearing from key presidential campaign advisors about policy visions for the next administration, United Ways from across the country heard from national experts in the areas of education, income and health. The main goal of the event was to help formulate strategies for the effective use of public policy to make progress on the three national goals announced in United Way's recent report, [Goals for the Common Good: The United Way Challenge to America](#):

- Cut by half the number of young people who drop out of high school.
- Cut by half the number of working families that lack financial stability.
- Increase by one-third the percentage of healthy young people and adults.

National experts who addressed the gathering included representatives from the National Council of State Legislatures, the Coalition for Community Schools, the Brookings Institute, the Corporation for Enterprise Development, the Bipartisan Policy Center and RAND Corporation. Key policy issues addressed at the event were: early childhood education subsidies, head start, k-12 reform, high school graduation rates, the future of no child left behind, Medicaid, SCHIP and the role and importance of the nonprofit sector.

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About United Way

United Way is a global network, including nearly 1,300 local organizations in the U.S. that advance the common good, creating opportunities for a better life for all by focusing on the three key building blocks of education, income and health. The United Way movement creates long lasting community change by addressing the underlying causes of problems that prevent progress in these areas. LIVE UNITED is a call to action for everyone to become part of the change. For more information about United Way, please visit: LIVEUNITED.org.