

**7/30/08**

## **Firewood Project:**

We have received donations of 50 -75 cords of wood so far. Our contacts for these donations are Richard Moffi and Paul & Diana Frederick. Some of the wood has already been delivered to our processing site at Manosh Hardwoods.

People or businesses can also donate wood and receive a tax letter from our United Way. We have connected with local utility companies and the state about using downed wood in the future and all have shown interest in being part of this project. We have developed forms for the utility companies to give to landowners who wish to donate the wood cut on their property. The National Guard has agreed to use their trucks and manpower to move wood for us. They are only able to help on the days they are doing trainings.

We will be asking volunteers to deliver the purchased wood to our local seniors and disabled. We will expect those that are physically able to pick up their own wood the week of Sept. 8. The wood will be offered to those that are 150% to 225% of poverty/income eligible, to be determined by our local Community Action.

We anticipate having ongoing volunteer support from prison work crews, court-ordered community service, court diversion's JOBS program, local church groups, and the general population through RSVP/Volunteer Center. Johnson State College has also expressed an interest in having this be an ongoing college service project.

We currently do not have liability insurance to cover our volunteers. We have researched policies and found that we can insure up to 75 volunteers for approximately \$1,000/year. United Way is willing to purchase the insurance once it is deemed necessary. Until then, anyone volunteering for this project will be required to sign a liability waiver. The wording for the waiver has been reviewed by our attorney.

We currently have a wood processor to use. The cost is \$800/week and United Way will be paying for this.

We met with the Asst. State Fire Marshal to discuss training volunteers to do chimney and stove inspections for anyone who receives wood. We would like to make inspections a requirement for all who take part in this program. We have developed forms and they have committed to training volunteers for this part of the project. All stoves should be up to state code, and homes should be equipped with working smoke & CO detectors.

There has been a lot of interest around the state on this project, so we hope to plan a model that can be used in other communities. We will be using the July work week to see how everything comes together and where adjustments need to be made. After that, we should have a good working model to share with others and be able to continue on with this project.

**UPDATE ON JULY WORK WEEK: 16 volunteers from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania are here to help us with our ramp and firewood projects. They started with the ramp project which is taking longer than anticipated. Therefore, we do not believe they will be able to do any work on the firewood project. We have been in touch with other faith groups about setting up a few "work weekends" so as not to interfere with people's work schedules.**