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United Way launches emergency campaign

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United Way of the Columbia-Willamette, Oregon Food Bank and Community Action Programs have formed Community Relief Fund, an emergency campaign to replenish funds for agencies strained to provide basic needs during the economic crisis.

The campaign was triggered by a 40 percent increase in calls for help to 211, the human services emergency resource number.

All donations to Community Relief Fund will go directly to programs that help families with food, rent assistance and utilities. No overhead costs will be deducted.

"The needs are real urgent and require immediate action," said Marc Levy, president and CEO of the local United Way chapter, in a statement.

Visit www.give10tell10.org/needs.html for information or to make a donation.

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