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## American Red Cross And United Way Teaming Up To Help Those In Need Of Services Because Of The War In Iraq

March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2003 – Dayton, Ohio – Military families are often hit most, and hit first in times of conflict. So in an effort to help them and other Miami Valley residents who may be faced with hardships because of the conflict in Iraq, the Dayton Area Chapter of the American Red Cross and the United Way of the Greater Dayton Area, are ready to respond.

The two organizations are partnering so that families left behind will be able to get the resources necessary to continue with their day-to-day lives. Reservists outnumber active-duty personnel and comprise about 52 percent of all soldiers.

"Often times, a reservist is deployed and the family is left with a fraction of what their normal income is," says Joe A. Lambright, CEO of the Dayton Area Chapter. "A lot of them don't realize that there is help available. What we want to do is facilitate the linking of these individuals to the agencies that can help them. Additionally we can provide them with traditional Red Cross military services like relaying emergency messages between service members and their families through our Armed Forces Emergency Services Program."

"Extraordinary times require extraordinary efforts," says Marc R. Levy, President of the United Way of the Greater Dayton Area. "That's why we're ready to partner together to provide a network of health and human services and respond to those most in need."

Please join Marc, Joe, Fran O'Shaughnessy, Red Cross Director of Emergency Services, and Sandy Williams, United Way Director of HelpLink Information & Referral Service, for a **press conference on Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m., in the Multi Purpose Room of the United Way, 184 Salem Avenue in Downtown Dayton.** We will explain this partnership further, tell you what types of services are available for the families of civilian-based soldiers and others, and inform you of a new, dedicated phone line set up just for this effort.

The Dayton Area Chapter of the American Red Cross and the United Way of the Greater Dayton Area are honored to have the opportunity to positively impact the lives of individuals in need of help and comfort.

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