

**NEWS RELEASE
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***United Way Creates Peru Disaster Response Fund
and 2007 International Hurricane Recovery Fund
---Two funds to support long term recovery efforts outside the U.S.--***

Alexandria, VA (September 4, 2007) Following the earthquake on August 15th off the central coast of Peru, United Way has established the *Peru Disaster Response Fund*. The fund will be open until December 31, 2007; its purpose is to provide long term recovery assistance through United Way's affiliate organization, Asociación Caminando Juntos. The Asociación is located in Lima and acted swiftly following the earthquake, working with its corporate partners to collect and deliver critical food and clothing supplies to the affected area.

In addition, a *2007 International Hurricane Recovery Fund* has been created for those interested in giving to victims of Hurricane Dean as well as other communities likely to be affected by additional hurricanes this year. Currently Mexico, Jamaica, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Martinique and St. Lucia are working to recover from Hurricane Dean. This fund has been created to support the long term reconstruction of lives and infrastructure.

When first responders leave, the enduring work to put communities back together begins. When community needs shift from immediate response to long term recovery, United Way works closely with the government, business, and charitable sectors to coordinate and re-establish the social services network. United Way directs resources to critical services that create long-lasting changes in the community. In the case of a disaster such as the Asian Tsunami, United Way continues to work with area partners to rebuild villages and schools and to create a community that is stronger than it was before the tragedy.

“Our thoughts remain with the victims, their loved ones and everyone affected by the Peruvian earthquake. After such unimaginable loss, what matters is the healing. United Way is here for the entire community and will remain steadfast to support the community's long term recovery,” stated United Way International President, Teresa Hall Bartels.

After previous natural catastrophes, such as the 2004 Asian Tsunami, United Way partnered with corporations such as Samsung and the National Football League whose support enabled large scale relief efforts to continue to occur. United Way is still accepting donations through 2009 for this fund, as the recuperation process will take years to complete.

“Many short term relief funds have an expiration date, making it difficult to transfer dollars raised immediately after a disaster to the next phase of aiding victims—which is long term rebuilding. We hope that by creating a fund early

on, more contributions will be available for long term recovery,” stated United Way International Board Chair, Steve Richardson.

Working together with community partners, United Way helps create and implement community restoration plans to identify long term needs, mobilize volunteer and financial resources, and connect people with social services, such as housing, mental health, and other community specific needs. Mobilizing its global network United Way is able to respond with experience, accountability, efficiency and culturally relevant solutions.

To make a donation please mail gifts to: **UW-Peru Disaster Response Fund**, or to **UW-2007 International Hurricane Recovery Fund**, 701 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA, 22314-2045. For more information go to United Way International’s website at www.uwint.org or call (703) 519-0092.

ABOUT UNITED WAY

United Way is a global network of non-profit organizations whose aim is to improve lives through community impact. In existence for more than 120 years, United Way operates in more than 40 countries and territories with 4,500 affiliates, and raises five billion annually for community investment.

Partners include leaders from local organizations, NGOs, foundations, non-profits, multi national corporations and local governments. Together they collaborate to identify the most pressing community needs and then develop strategies to address underlying causes to create lasting change. The United Way network is committed to excellence in innovative leadership, global best practice exchange, advocacy, voluntarism and resource development.