

## News Release 2011

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Peter Theisen, United Way of Whatcom County, [ptheisen@unitedwaywhatcom.org](mailto:ptheisen@unitedwaywhatcom.org), (360)733-8670

Amber Hoffman, FamilyWize, [ahoffman@familywize.org](mailto:ahoffman@familywize.org), 800-222-2818, Ext. 125

### **United Way of Whatcom County and FamilyWize announce savings of more than \$250,000 in everyday prescription costs for local residents**

United Way of Whatcom County and FamilyWize are proud to announce that their partnership has saved the people living and working in Whatcom County more than \$250,000 on everyday prescription costs – more than any other county in Washington!

Distributed through United Way, the FamilyWize card lowers the cost of medicine by an average of 30% or more for people without insurance or who take medications not covered by their plan. It's similar to a reusable coupon for filling prescriptions. Just present a FamilyWize card at a local pharmacy to get the savings. The card has been used more than 18,600 times in our community to date.

“No one should be forced to choose between paying for food, rent or medicine because of the high cost of prescriptions. That's why we've partnered with FamilyWize to distribute free prescription discount cards to everyone in our community”, said Peter Theisen, President of United Way of Whatcom County

These cards can be used by everyone in the community, not just people without insurance. They can even be used by people with health benefits, including Medicaid or Medicare.

“The FamilyWize card provides immediate savings on prescription medicines with no paperwork or forms to fill out,” said Dan Barnes, Co-chair of The FamilyWize Community Service Partnership.

The FamilyWize card is easy to use:

- It's Free
- For immediate and unlimited use
- Anyone can use the FamilyWize card
- Accepted at 95% of pharmacies nationwide
- No enrollment or personal information needed

Nearly 1,000 United Ways in all 50 states have helped to save more than \$200 million on prescriptions in their communities. In Washington State alone, almost \$1.5 million has been saved.

FamilyWize cards can be found locally at participating pharmacies across Whatcom County such as Costco, Fred Meyer, Haggen and Costcutter. For a full list, go to [www.unitedwaywhatcom.org](http://www.unitedwaywhatcom.org) or to [www.FamilyWize.org](http://www.FamilyWize.org) to print a card or look up drug prices.

United Way of Whatcom County is a proud 4 star rated charity on Charity Navigator that has worked for over 50 years to increase financial resources for local health and human service needs, and to seek and invest in community-building opportunities to improve the health and welfare of Whatcom County residents.

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