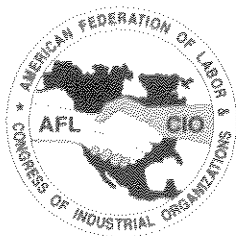


American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations



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To: Presidents of National and International Unions
State Federation Officers
Principal Officers of Central Labor Councils and Area Labor Federations

From: John J. Sweeney 

Date: June 12, 2007

Re: 2007 United Way Endorsement

Half of U.S. households have less than \$1,000 in net financial assets and a full third have zero or negative net assets. Three out of every four U.S. households don't have enough net wealth to survive at the poverty level for three months. The personal savings rate, as a percentage of personal income, is -1%, the lowest since the depths of the Great Depression 73 years ago.

These stark realities mean great hardships for working people. While the unions of the AFL-CIO work for fundamental change in public policies to create a more just and humane economy, local unions and volunteer union members are reaching out, as always, to help neighbors in need in their own communities.

For over six decades, AFL-CIO Community Services has worked in national and community-based partnership with United Way, a relationship that has meant help is there when working families are in need. The work of 240 local AFL-CIO Community Services liaisons and 25 labor Community Services agencies are made possible by United Way funding. In response to the growing inequality of wealth in the US, United Way is pioneering new ways to promote family financial stability and public policy activities to encourage adequate funding for vital public programs for the working poor, such as the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). These efforts deserve our support.

Please join me in supporting the 2007 United Way campaign. Together, we can help those in real need now while we work to reduce the root causes of need in the communities where we live and work. Thank you.

JJS:tw/opeciu#2