

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Shoreline/South County Family YMCA and Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Receive \$5,000 United Way Grant to Expand POPY's Café Program**

**Funds will allow 50 more Shoreline-area residents to receive a free meal every week; program is the only free dinner program in north King County**

SHORELINE—Feb. 25, 2008—The United Way of King County has awarded funds to expand POPY's Café, a Shoreline-based free dinner program that currently serves 150 people per week. The \$5,000 grant will allow the Shoreline/South County Family YMCA and Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, who collaborate to provide the program, to serve 50 additional residents each week.

The program, the only free dinner service in north King County, provides a free meal every Wednesday to anyone who shows up. POPY's Café is supported by 20 volunteers, ages 12 to 75 who prepare and serve guests their meals each week.

This funding enables POPY's Café to increase staff support, leverage more donated food items and train volunteers. Since beginning the program in 2005, POPY's Café has reduced its cost per meal, from \$3 per meal to \$1.50 per meal in 2007. With this funding, the organizations hope to further reduce its costs and serve a greater number of people each week.

Additionally, POPY's Café will increase outreach efforts to serve a more diverse population. POPY's Café is located on the city line between Shoreline and Seattle, an area that is home to an increasing number of Hispanics, North Africans and seniors. This funding will allow the organizations to improve outreach to these communities through translation of flyers into native languages and through meeting with and inviting these groups to visit POPY's Café for a meal.

“The YMCA began its partnership with Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in 2005 when our organizations came together to address the needs around food insecurity in our community,” said Amy Holland, Program Executive at the Shoreline/South County Family YMCA. “These funds from United Way of King County make it possible for us to reach out to more low income families in our community and provide them with a nutritious meal each week.”

If you are interested in volunteering your time at POPY's Café, please contact Amy Holland ([aholland@seattleyymca.org](mailto:aholland@seattleyymca.org)) for details.

The Shoreline/South County Family YMCA is located at 1220 NE 175<sup>th</sup> Street in Shoreline. POPY's Café is located at the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, at 14514 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE in Shoreline. Meals are served every Wednesday from 5–6:30 p.m. For more information about POPY's Café, please call (206) 364-1700.

**About the YMCA of Greater Seattle:**

The YMCA of Greater Seattle is a charitable, non-profit organization serving King and south Snohomish counties since 1876. Reaching more than 190,000 people annually through 13 branches, two resident camps and more than 200 program sites, the YMCA provides a wide range of programs and services in child care, youth development, education, foster care, family support, wellness and outdoor experiences. More information may be found at [www.seattleyymca.org](http://www.seattleyymca.org).

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