



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 27, 2009

**Contact:** Shana Selender  
(202) 488-2111  
sselender@wnca.org

**United Way of the National Capital Area Creates a Place for  
Children to Learn and Play**

United Way links with ABC's *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* to Improve a  
Local Community Center

**WASHINGTON, DC** - United Way of the National Capital Area (UWNCA) has joined forces with ABC's *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* to rebuild the Fishing School, a community center in the greater Washington area. UWNCA has rallied more than 3,300 volunteers and the in-kind support of several local businesses to help complete the build in just one week.

"Rebuilding this community center amounts to much more than raising wooden frames and painting some walls," said Bill Hanbury, President and CEO of UWNCA. "Through this opportunity, we will raise morale for an entire neighborhood and give children an inviting place to come together to develop an appreciation for community, health and fitness."

In addition to supporting the *Extreme Makeover* build of the Fishing School, UWNCA introduced the Child Wellness Initiative last year and awarded nearly \$550,000 in grant funding to community partners. UWNCA's recently launched Fun, Fly and Fit, a child wellness program that equips local schools and community centers with resources to help children lead healthier lifestyles.

"Child health and wellness are top priorities for United Way and we are demonstrating that by helping to rebuild the Fishing School, a community center where children can embrace fitness and healthy living," said Mark Jenkins, celebrity personal trainer and spokesperson for UWNCA's Fun, Fly and Fit program.

"UWNCA's *Fun, Fly & Fit* program has the potential to change the way kids in our nation's capital feel about wellness and nutrition," said Jenkins. "It's wonderful to see UWNCA lending their muscle to create a new place for the next generation to come together."

- More -

## **Page 2/ UWNCA Creates a Place for Children to Learn and Play**

### **About United Way of the National Capital Area**

UWNCA is the largest non-governmental health and human services fund provider in the Washington metro area and has been bringing together people and resources to improve lives for more than 30 years. Working with community organizations, local governments and businesses, UWNCA's eight regional councils -- located in the District of Columbia, Northern Virginia and Southwest Maryland -- respond to critical community needs. For more information, visit [www.unitedwaynca.org](http://www.unitedwaynca.org) or follow us on [www.facebook.com/United-Way-of-the-National-Capital-Area](https://www.facebook.com/United-Way-of-the-National-Capital-Area) and [www.twitter.com/uwnca](https://www.twitter.com/uwnca) .

UWNCA coordinates one of the largest annual fundraising campaigns in the country. The campaign disperses millions in funds to more than 950 nonprofit partners – certified by UWNCA – that provide health and human service programs to Washington area residents. The campaign also includes nine Community Impact Funds, which work to solve complex social issues by directing funds to the most critical areas of need.

###