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Contact: Mari E. Mellick, CAE, Executive Director
Phone: 651-438-3337
Email: mari@unitedwayofhastings.org

**United Way of Hastings Receives
Edina Realty Foundation Grant for Food4Kids**

(Hastings, MN) – The United Way of Hastings (UWH) received a grant from the Edina Realty Foundation to help offset 2018 costs associated with the Food4Kids initiative.

“Most people don’t know that student hunger is an issue in our community. The folks at Edina Realty Foundation and Edina Realty Hastings have really stepped up to the plate to help our local students,” said Mari E. Mellick, CAE, Executive Director. “Having students arrive back to school on Monday mornings, with full stomachs and ready to learn, is a goal of UWH. The caring people at Edina Realty have partnered with us to help accomplish that goal.”

UWH’s Food4Kids weekend student food program was put in place after identifying that Hastings students were hungry on Monday mornings. Weekends without school meals can be especially tough for some families. In partnership with 360 Communities and Hastings Independent School District #200, Food4Kids provides food bags for students that don’t have enough food to eat over the weekend. Family Support Workers funded by UWH allow for confidential identification of students in need. Support workers work with families and school counselors, providing necessary snack bags to the students for the weekend and help to identify the root cause of hunger in the household so that necessary resources can help get families back on their feet.

“Our primary purpose is to help people buy and sell homes,” said Sandy Becker, Foundation Representative, Edina Realty Hastings office. “But adequate shelter and basic needs are a major issue for some people in our community. We are proud to support organizations like United Way of Hastings that are helping provide vital services for people who need our support.”

To give food or help pack food bags, contact United Way of Hastings at 651-438-3337. To learn more about specific food items needed, visit www.unitedwayofhastings.org/food4kids.html.

The Edina Realty Foundation is a non-for-profit, private foundation that offers financial support to non-profit organizations providing housing and related services to homeless families throughout Minnesota and western Wisconsin. Supported through donated funds and volunteer time by Edina Realty agents and employees, the Foundation has donated \$9 million since its inception in 1996. For more information, visit edinarealty.com.

The UWH is an independent United Way that has worked for over 50 years serving Hastings and the surrounding rural communities within Independent School District #200. Its mission is to build partnerships to improve the lives of people in our community. Donations are accepted year-round. For more information about the UWH and the agencies it funds, visit www.unitedwayofhastings.org.

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113 2nd St E, Ste 102, PO Box 353, Hastings, MN 55033
(651) 438-3337
www.unitedwayofhastings.org