

**WV United Ways offer drug discount cards- 3/20/08**  
**By Cecelia Mason**

**Studio lead:** West Virginians faced with high prescription drug bills can get some relief, thanks to discount cards offered through several community United Way organizations. The United Way of the Eastern Panhandle is one of 12 across the state distributing the cards. Cecelia Mason has more:

**Mason:** The Eastern Panhandle United Way began giving out two thousand prescription drug cards on Tuesday and by Thursday was ordering more. Director of Community Impact, Trina Bartlett, says the cards are available to anyone:

**Bartlett:** There are no income eligibility criteria. So literally anyone who is, who needs a prescription and isn't covered through their insurance or doesn't have insurance can use it. There is absolutely no income, no limit, no age requirement. It's simply something to help anyone who can benefit from it.

**Mason:** The cards come from an organization called Familywize Network. Familywize organized in two thousand five with a goal of cutting the cost of prescription medicine by \$100M in five years. The Familywize web site lists organizations in each state that distribute cards as well as national pharmacy chains that give an average of 2% in discounts. Bartlett says there are benefits beyond getting a discount:

**Bartlett:** When you don't have to spend as much money on medication you have dollars to help you in other areas. And we've all been hearing about the economy and how much people are paying for gas and the cost of food, so obviously there's that economic benefit. But I think the other issue is it simply raises the awareness of the issue of the cost of prescription drugs and gets people talking about it and thinking about how can we as a community work together to address this really critical need.

**Mason:** Bartlett says anyone interested in getting a card can contact the local United Way to see if it's participating. The cards can also be printed from the Familywize web site.  
For West Virginia Public Broadcasting I'm Cecelia Mason in Shepherdstown.