



**INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD
OF ELECTRICAL
WORKERS.**

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VIA E-MAIL

To: All IBEW Local Unions in the United States

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

As we work to insure the passage of legislation that will restore workers' rights, reform health care and insure the survival of the American middle class, millions of families are struggling with unemployment. Eight million people have lost their jobs since the onset of the current economic crisis began in 2008. Many of these families and individuals have lost their homes, health insurance and dreams of sending their kids to college. For the first time in their lives, many hard-working people are going to local food banks for help.

The labor movement has responded to these issues using a national Web site, www.UnemploymentLifeline.com, which includes a range of resources and strategies for the unemployed, as well as connection to local assistance programs. However, families in need must be helped directly in the communities where they live. The AFL-CIO state and central bodies, AFL-CIO Community Services Network and Working America are mobilizing local response plans to help with human services to give the economically displaced a real voice on the issues shaping their lives.

Labor's primary community partner in this important work is the United Way. In communities large or small and from coast to coast, United Way funding makes possible the wide range of high-impact programs and services people need to get back on their feet. The United Way also works to encourage adequate funding for essential public programs for the working poor and the unemployed, such as State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), Healthy Start Program, and Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). During times of unemployment and crisis, IBEW members benefit from the services offered through the agencies of the local United Way and this organization serves the support of IBEW members in their communities.

Please join me in supporting the 2009 United Way campaign where you live and work. Together, we can help those in real need as we work to turn America around.

With best wishes, I am

Fraternally yours,

Edwin D. Hill
International President

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Copy to All International Vice Presidents (except First District)
Judy Parkins, AFL-CIO Community Services Liaison