

## Saving on Prescription Costs

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Are you or someone you know struggling with the high costs of prescription medications? Could you use some help? Even if you have prescription drug insurance, you may qualify for a Familywize discount.

United Way of Marathon County has partnered with area pharmacies and Familywize to distribute Familywize prescription drug discount cards to area residents. This card can reduce the cost of medications up to 35%.

This program is a partnership between:

- Familywize, a national organization based in Pennsylvania that provides the discount cards free of charge, and coordinates claims processing.
- Local pharmacies that have agreed to accept prices for medications that are closer to the prices available to large insurance companies.
- United Way of Marathon County who is distributing the cards through area employers, non-profits and other organizations, and promoting this program with articles, e-mails and via the website.

The distribution of discount cards in Marathon County began in early 2009. Since that time almost 800 claims have been filed, saving county residents over \$11,500. Statewide, 92,000 claims resulted in savings of almost \$1.6 million to date. As this program becomes more widely know, we expect local numbers to grow significantly.

With the high unemployment rate and loss of insurance that so many people are experiencing today, there is a concern that people may need to chose between their medications and other bills—like rent or heat. Some people look to save money in this economy by skipping or reducing dosages. While this discount card won't solve the problem entirely, it is a good first step in helping to reduce costs and something anyone can do immediately to save money on prescriptions for their family. The card can even be used when purchasing prescription drugs for pets.

The Familywize card is free and easy to use. There are no applications, fees or waiting periods, no age or income restrictions. It can be used by people who don't have insurance, family members who may not be covered by insurance, or even those with insurance during the deductible period.

Businesses and organizations that are interested in a supply of cards for their employees or clients should contact JoAnn Janikowski at the United Way office. Interested individuals can also print a card directly from the United Way website at [www.unitedwaymc.org](http://www.unitedwaymc.org) or ask their pharmacy for a card.

To learn more about this program, go to our website at [www.unitedwaymc.org](http://www.unitedwaymc.org) or the Familywize website at [www.familywize.org](http://www.familywize.org).