

# RiverRun Bookstore makes affordable housing a priority

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PORTSMOUTH – RiverRun Bookstore introduces "Business Building Community" a program to raise awareness about the need for affordable housing in the Seacoast, benefiting six local nonprofits addressing the issue.

Throughout 2008, for two months at a time, RiverRun will feature information about a different local nonprofit agency addressing the issue of housing. At the conclusion of each two-month period, the featured non-profit will also receive 2 percent of RiverRun's gross earnings. United Way of the Greater Seacoast has partnered with RiverRun to work with the non-profit recipients and help spread the word.

"We're excited to be working with United Way on this project. Their ability to see the bird's eye view of the community, and their work on finding long-term solutions for the housing issue make it a perfect match," said Tom Holbrook, RiverRun owner.

Liza Dube, Communications Director for United Way of the Greater Seacoast added, "RiverRun's 'Business Building Community' program is an exciting example of trying to solve community issues through community action. Educating the public about the need for affordable housing is a vital step in creating lasting change together."

The Housing Partnership was founded in 1988 by local businesses, concerned citizens and the United Way of the Greater Seacoast in response to a critical shortage of affordable housing in the region.

The Housing Partnership creates affordable rental housing by purchasing and renovating deteriorated buildings and constructing new housing. They have created over 225 affordable units for low and moderate-income households. Properties are located in 11 communities scattered around Strafford and Rockingham Counties, New Hampshire and York County, Maine.