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United Way of America
The Way America Cares
Community by Community.

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TO: **UNITED WAY CHIEF PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS**
REGIONAL AND STATE UNITED WAY KEY VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF

FROM: CYNTHIA ROUND, EXECUTIVE IN CHARGE OF BRAND STRATEGY AND MARKETING

SUBJECT: **SCOUTING LEGAL DEFENSE FUND**

DATE: **August 1, 2002**

We are aware that some local United Ways across the country are receiving correspondence from an organization called Scouting Legal Defense Fund. The stated mission of this organization is to defend and promote scouting. The correspondence specifically requests that the local United Way verifies its funding position regarding local Boy Scout organizations. It also informs the recipient that it has been identified by the Fund as a United Way that has either reduced or cut off funding to local Boy Scout organizations in their community. Their stated intention is to "begin a major national effort to more widely publicize a list of local United Way organizations that are discriminating against the Scouts".

Our initial strategy to deal with this organization is to urge the national office of Boy Scouts of America (BSA) to communicate directly with Scouting Legal Defense Fund on behalf of United Way. United Way of America (UWA) President Brian Gallagher has spoken with BSA Chief Scout Executive Roy L. Williams. Williams assured Gallagher that the BSA is not affiliated with this organization. He agreed that this attempt to identify United Ways and their positions on funding local Boy Scout organizations is not in BSA's best interest. To that point, Williams has already sent a letter to the Fund and will send another letter requesting that this type of activity cease. We will share this letter with you as soon as we receive a copy from BSA.

UWA will not cooperate with this organization's effort to collect data regarding local United Way allocations. Local United Ways should not comply with this organization's request for information.

If you have any questions about this matter please call Phil Jones, UWA Director of Public Relations at 1-800-892-2757, extension 871.

cc: United Way of America Staff