



For more information, contact:

Tamara L. Hill

Amegy Bank of Texas

713.232.1168

Tamara.Hill@amegybank.com

**AMEGY BANK OF TEXAS
PROVIDES UP TO \$20,000 IN GAS GRANTS TO LOCAL CHARITIES**
Nonprofit agencies are encouraged to apply before July 30

HOUSTON – Wednesday, July 9, 2008 – To help local nonprofit organizations battle rising gas prices without sacrificing community services, Amegy Bank of Texas is awarding \$1,000 grants to up to 20 local charities so they can purchase gasoline. Many charities rely on buses, vans and cars to deliver their services to individuals who are in need. Because of the rapid increases in gas prices, many local agencies are reducing their services or have exceeded their projected budgets.

Amegy Bank created this gasoline grant program in response to reports that charities are faced with the hard decision of reducing services or going over their budgets.

“Many nonprofits are being hit on all sides right now: rising prices are making it more expensive for them to conduct their services, while they’re trying to help an increasing number of people who are struggling with those same prices,” said Paul Murphy, CEO of Amegy Bank of Texas. “In some cases, high fuel costs are driving away volunteers who can’t afford the trip while donations are falling off because donors are feeling the pinch as well.”

The grant program is intended to assist nonprofit agencies which have significant driving demands, such as those which operate mobile medical vans, traveling health clinics, and deliver meals to the homebound and to seniors.

Anne Neeson, Vice President of Donor Relations for United Way of Greater Houston, said that many local nonprofits have been forced to scale back on services. “For all nonprofit agencies, every penny counts, so this program is sure to have an immediate impact for organizations that will be awarded these grants.”

This new initiative builds on Amegy Bank’s commitment to the community. Last year, the bank contributed approximately \$1.4 million through more than 800 donations throughout Greater Houston.

Nonprofit organizations are invited to apply for the grant program if they meet the following requirements:

- 501(c)(3) charity in good standing
- Primarily serve the Greater Houston area, i.e. based in Montgomery, Harris, San Jacinto, Chambers, Fort Bend, Liberty, Austin, Waller, Galveston or Brazoria County
- Main services require significant driving, i.e. mobile services delivering food to homebound seniors or medical care vans inoculating children in low-income neighborhoods

Applications for the gas grants, as well as frequently asked questions, can be found at www.amegybank.com. The application deadline is July 30. Grant recipients will be contacted soon afterwards, and a public awards ceremony to announce the grant recipients will follow.

About Amegy Bank of Texas

Amegy Bank of Texas is one of the fastest growing banks in Texas. With assets of more than \$11 billion, local decision making and a history of relationship banking, Amegy has the resources to serve leading Texas companies as a source of capital as well as provide efficient and effective treasury management, international and investment services. The Bank, with more than 85 locations in the state, specializes in commercial banking as well as private financial management and trust services for families and individuals, and retail and mortgage banking services. Amegy is a part of the Zions Bancorporation (NASDAQ: ZION) collection of great banks.

About United Way of Greater Houston

For 85 years, the United Way of Greater Houston has been the social service safety net for the Houston Area. United Way is a leader and trusted partner in improving lives, tackling key community social issues, and making a lasting difference. The organization touches one of every two lives in the Bay Area, Fort Bend, Harris, Montgomery and Waller counties. The United Way focuses on strengthening our community by developing children and youth to their full potential, creating strong families and safe neighborhoods, sustaining senior independence, and rebuilding people's lives in times of crisis. The United Way of Greater Houston is the best way to make the biggest difference in our community. For information, please visit www.unitedwayhouston.org.

###