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**UNITED WAY OF THE VALLEY & GREATER UTICA WELCOMES NEW BOARD
DIRECTORS AT 2009 ANNUAL MEETING**

Nonprofit Exemplifies Outstanding Community Leadership

Utica, NY (March 27, 2009) — At yesterday's Annual Meeting, United Way of the Valley & Greater Utica Area welcomed six new volunteers to the Board of Directors at the 2009 Annual Meeting: Amber Clarke of Bank of New York Mellon, Patrick Costello of IBEW Local 43, John Hobika of M&T Bank, Joe Kelly of Wal-Mart, Maimun Khan of Mohawk Valley Community College and Kenneth Tompkins of Empire State Development.

"We are incredibly proud to have such outstanding leadership on our Board of Directors," says United Way Board President, Todd Hutton. "United Way is focused on representing a diverse and inclusive Board of Directors who are committed to both the United Way mission and the Mohawk Valley community."

United Way's Board of Directors also renewed the terms of current directors, Kay Lanaux and Brian Lytwynec of Utica National. Other current Board Members accepted new leadership roles including Donald Carbone, 2008 Campaign Chair, as Board Marketing Chair, Jacqueline Woudenberg of Herkimer County Community College as Treasurer and Eve Van de Wal of Excellus BC/BS as Community Investment Chair.

"While we welcome our new Board Members and are excited about the new leadership roles other volunteers will take on," says Hutton, "We thank retiring Board Members, Frank DeRiso of UFCW District Union Local One and Cassandra Harris-Lockwood of For the Good, Inc., for their dedication to United Way over the years."

There are currently 27 United Way Board Members who serve on a volunteer basis. For more information on the United Way Board of Directors or volunteer opportunities, contact Michelle Tarnelli, Director of Marketing & Communications at 315.733.4691 x225 or michelle.tarnelli@unitedwaygu.org.

About Amber Clarke

Amber Clarke has been in the banking industry for almost 25 years in various capacities dealing with Credit Administration, Commercial Lending and Risk Management. Currently, Clarke is the Assistant Treasurer and Manager for the OFAC and Regulatory Compliance Department for the Funds Transfer Division of the Bank of New York Mellon. Prior to Bank of New York Mellon, Clarke was the Vice President and Corporate Relationship Manager at HSBC Bank for the Syracuse and Utica markets. She has been an active member on numerous boards and committees throughout the community.

About Patrick Costello

Patrick Costello is the Assistant Business Manager of IBEW Local 43 and also serves as the President of the Central New York Labor Council. Costello is also a Board Member of the Workforce Investment Board and a Member of the City of Utica Empire Zone.

About John Hobika

John Hobika is Vice President and Regional Insurance Coordinator for M&T Investment Group, a wholly owned subsidiary of M&T Bank. He is a member of the management team that oversees the distribution and sales of insurance programs and services throughout Central New York and has been with M&T Bank for almost 10 years. Hobika is the Immediate Past President of NAIFA-Mohawk Valley (National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors) and currently serves as Treasurer. He also serves on the board for the Boys & Girls Club of Utica, as Franklin Club Chairman and a member of the St. Elizabeth's Medical Care Foundation. Hobika has volunteered for the United Way campaign since 2003 and will serve as the 2009 Campaign Chair.

About Joe Kelly

Joe Kelly is the General Manager of the Wal-Mart Distribution Center and is responsible for the Marcy, New York Distribution Center. His staff includes 1,100 associates and 80 managers, servicing 104 Wal-Mart stores. Kelly has also volunteered with the Utica Chamber of Commerce, Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) advisor to Columbia University and the Winthrop University Alumni Mentorship Program.

About Maimun Khan

Maimun Khan is currently a counselor at Mohawk Valley Community College and serves on the board for the Samaritan Counseling Center. She has been active in the Muslim Community Association of the Mohawk Valley and is proud of her heritage, organizing and participating in several diversity events each year representing her Bangladeshi background. She is also a member of Utica Writers Club and serves as the volunteer coordinator for Congressman Arcuri's volunteers.

About Kenneth Tompkins

Kenneth Tompkins is the Regional Director for Empire State Development's Mohawk Valley Region. Empire State Development is New York State's chief economic development agency, encompassing business, work force and community development. Prior to joining Empire State Development, Tompkins served as Vice President of Business Services for National Grid. He currently serves on the boards of the Central New York Community Arts Council and the Upstate Cerebral Palsy Association. He is a board member of Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES School and Business Alliance. Tompkins is a former board chairman of Mohawk Valley EDGE and past board president of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County. He also served on the boards of the Mohawk Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Rome Industrial Development Corporation and the Utica Symphony Orchestra.

About United Way's Board of Directors

Todd S. Hutton, Utica College
President

Jacqueline Woudenberg, Herkimer County Community College
Treasurer

Fred D. Matt, FX Matt Brewing Company
Vice President, Strategic Planning

Eve Van de Wal, Excellus Blue Cross/Blue Shield
Vice President, Community Investment

Donald Carbone, Don-AI Management
Vice President, Marketing & Communications

John Hobika, M&T Bank
Campaign Chair

Lawrence T. Gilroy III, Gilroy, Kernan & Gilroy
Immediate Past President

Philip N. Hayne, United Way of the Valley & Greater Utica Area
Secretary

Dr. Robert L. Bradley, New Hartford School District Retiree

Beth A. Brewer, The Evening Telegram

Amber Clarke, Bank of New York Mellon

Anthony Colon, Techno-Logic Solutions

Pat Costello, AFL/CIO

Dr. Burt Danovitz, Resource Center for Independent Living

John Hobika, M&T Bank

Patrick Johnson, New Life Institute

Joe Kelly, Wal-Mart

Maimun Khan, Mohawk Valley Community College

Kay Lanaux

Brian P. Lytwynec, Utica National

Mary Malone McCarthy, Northland Communications

Fred C. Monaco II, New York State Teachers Association

Anthony J. Scibelli, Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare

Elizabeth Soggs

Deanna R. Stublely, Adirondack Bank

Bernadette A. Sunderlin, Masonic Medical Research Lab

Kenneth Tompkins, Empire State Development

James Wallace, Herkimer County Administrator

About United Way

United Way of the Valley & the Greater Utica Area is a local, independent non-profit organization funding area programs and services that address the most crucial local community impact issues. United Way's strength is its ability to improve lives by mobilizing its partners to create positive, sustained change in community conditions and to focus on what matters most—results. For more information, visit www.unitedwaygu.org or call 315.733.4691.

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