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UNITED WAY INVESTS OVER \$625,000 IN PROGRAMS TO MAKE THE MOHAWK VALLEY STRONGER

Utica, NY (May 28, 2009) — With the help of very dedicated, local volunteers, United Way of the Valley & Greater Utica Area will invest over \$625,000 into local programs that change lives in our community.

“To us, accountability is key,” says Executive Director, Philip Hayne. “We hold ourselves responsible to our donors, and our volunteers are committed to ensuring we invest in programs and initiatives with the greatest promise of delivering measurable results.”

Beginning on July 1, 2009, United Way will invest in 26 programs and collaborations, run by 13 agency partners. The money that is invested comes from annual campaign donations, which raised \$3.3 million - 20% less than the originally projected \$3.7 million. After designated contributions, administration fees, gifts to other United Ways and funds allocated to our other investment areas are set aside (a total of approximately \$2.6 million), \$626,800 was available for program funding this cycle.

Funding highlights are as follows:

- ❑ \$336,000 will be invested towards Basic Needs and Emergency Services.
- ❑ \$193,000 will be invested towards Promoting Self-Sufficiency.
- ❑ \$97,800 will be invested towards Supporting Aging Populations.

United Way of the Valley & Greater Utica Area is working to advance the common good by focusing on the building blocks for a good life through the following investment areas:

Keeping Kids on Track so our children are born healthy, in school and ready to learn, and our youth succeed in school.

Ensuring Older Adults Age Successfully and remain healthy, safe and independent.

Strengthening Families and Promoting Self-Sufficiency in our community are vital to make certain individuals are financially, emotionally and physically secure, and are productive members of society.

While United Way also meets the emergency services and basic needs of the Mohawk Valley, the goal is to create long-lasting changes that prevent problems from happening in the first place through their main investment areas

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United Way received 35 proposals that totaled \$990,323 with only \$626,800 funds available for programs and services.

A diverse group of almost 50 volunteers on the Community Investment Panels carefully reviewed the proposals and presented a recommendation to the United Way Board of Directors, which was approved on May 26, 2009.

The United Way Board of Directors and Panel volunteers focused its investments to achieve meaningful improvement in the quality of life in our community.

“When there are limited dollars, we need to focus on what creates the most impact,” adds Hayne. “Working together, we can bring regional vision, resources and innovation together to address our community’s most-pressing and ever-changing issues.”

Below is the list of the 2009-2010 Basic Needs & Emergency Services funded programs and agency affiliates:

Community Assistance Program, Catholic Charities of Oneida & Madison Counties
Community Blood Services, American Red Cross Mohawk Valley Chapter
Competence & Confidence, Upstate Cerebral Palsy (UCP)
Domestic Violence Non-Residential Program, YWCA of the Mohawk Valley
Emergency Preparedness, American Red Cross Mohawk Valley Chapter
Families & Adults with ASD, Upstate Cerebral Palsy (UCP)
Feeding Program, Greater Utica Area Community Food Bank
Food Pantry, Salvation Army
General & Preventative Program, Legal Aid Society of Mid-York
Hall House, YWCA of the Mohawk Valley
Help Line, Legal Aid Society of Mid-York
Interpreter Program, Multicultural Association of Medical Interpreters (MAMI)
Refugee Support, Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees (MVRCR)
Services to Armed Forces, American Red Cross Mohawk Valley Chapter
Soup Kitchen, Salvation Army

Below is the list of 2009-2010 Promoting Self-Sufficiency funded programs and agency affiliates:

At Home, Upstate Cerebral Palsy (UCP)
Core Independent Living Service, Resource Center for Independent Living (RCIL)
Employment Program, Resource Center for Independent Living (RCIL)
Financial Empowerment, Cornell Cooperative Extension
Learning Disability Association (LDA), Resource Center for Independent Living (RCIL)
Vocational Training Services, The Arc Oneida-Lewis Chapter

Below is the list of 2009-2010 Supporting Aging Populations funded programs and agency affiliates:

Adult Day Services, Resource Center for Independent Living (RCIL)
Adult Swim Program, YWCA of the Mohawk Valley
Bill Payer Program, Family Services of the Mohawk Valley

*Elder Services Advocacy, American Red Cross Mohawk Valley Chapter
Health & Wellness, Parkway Senior Center*

While the Valley United Way and United Way of the Greater Utica Area have been officially merged since January 2008, each community investment process is on a separate cycle and anticipates having a complete transition (including same-cycle allocations process) within the next two years. The Valley's volunteer panels will host their community investment process in the fall, which includes a \$130,000 designation from the annual campaign.

For more information, contact the Michelle Tarnelli at United Way, 315.733.4691 x225 or michelle.tarnelli@unitedwaygu.org.

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 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 results. For more information, visit www.unitedwaygu.org or call 315.733.4691.

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