

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**UNITED WAY CONTINUES TO MAKE A POSITIVE
IMPACT IN OUR COMMUNITY WITH SPECIAL INITIATIVE GRANTS**

Board of Directors Agrees Supports Summer Youth Services in Inner City Utica

Utica, NY (July 13, 2007) — Effective immediately, the Board of Directors of the United Way of the Greater Utica Area has committed three special initiative grants to help fill the needs of summer programming in the inner City of Utica.

The Board of Directors has made a pledge to support youth services in Utica's inner city, and at the most-recent board meeting, selected to provide the following programs with special initiative grants:

Hoops and Dreams Basketball is a 12-week life skills class scheduled with Proctor High School Students including a three-day basketball tournament scheduled for mid-July. The outcomes of this program include learning anger management skills, job seeking skills, HIV/Aids Prevention and violence reduction.

King of Kings Life Development Basketball League is a summer long basketball league program. The outcomes include resume writing, connecting participants with employers, (employers attend the games), and voter registration.

JCTOD Youth Drop-In Center is targeted to younger children in the Johnson Park Neighborhood. The grant will help them to expand hours of operations. Outcomes associated with this program include a safe and supportive environment for youth, better prepared youth through life skills education, and a reduction of youth violence in Cornhill.

Scott Ferguson, Executive Director of the United Way of the Greater Utica Area says, "The United Way is committed to supporting programs with demonstrable results in the city. It is our hope that these \$5,000 grants will help strengthen and allow some expansion of already successful programs."

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For further information, contact United Way of the Greater Utica Area, (315) 733-4691.

About United Way of the Greater Utica Area

United Way of 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.

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