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UNITED WAY RECEIVES \$10,000 GRANT FROM METLIFE FOUNDATION

Grant Supports Mohawk Valley's Older Population Through Vital Programs and Services

Utica, NY (December 22, 2008) — Today, MetLife presented United Way of the Valley & Greater Utica Area with a \$10,000 check for a MetLife Foundation Grant awarded to fund vital programs and services for the Mohawk Valley's older population.

"Our community's older population is growing significantly and it is important for us to work together to ensure they have proper health services, transportation services and can remain in their homes and with their families," says Executive Director, Phil Hayne. "We are thankful for MetLife's continued support of United Way and of the Mohawk Valley community."

This grant will fund the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) through Catholic Charities of Herkimer County and through the Parkway Senior Center in Oneida County. The RSVP Program works to offer seniors (ages 55 and older) the opportunity to share their talents, interests and compassion through service to their communities. RSVP volunteers provide transportation services to the Mohawk Valley's older population for their medical appointments, deliver meals and help to meet other health needs for residents.

"This is just one of many ways the merging of our two organizations has a positive impact on our community," adds Hayne. "Especially in these tough economic times, it is imperative that we all work together towards advancing the common good of our community."

This year, the MetLife Foundation has granted funds to over 300 local United Way organizations nationwide. For more information, contact the Michelle Tarnelli at United Way, 315.733.4691 x225 or michelle.tarnelli@unitedwaygu.org.

About the MetLife Foundation

MetLife Foundation was created in 1976 by MetLife to continue its longstanding tradition of contributions and community involvement. The goal is to empower people to lead healthy, productive lives and strengthen communities. Underlying the Foundation's programs is a focus on education at all ages and a commitment to increasing access and opportunity.

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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