



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Sabitoni receives United Way of RI's Labor Community Services Award**

**PROVIDENCE, RI** (June 25, 2008) – Michael F. Sabitoni, of Johnston, President of the RI Building and Construction Trades Council, is the recipient of United Way of Rhode Island's Dante Mollo Labor Community Services Award.

The award is given annually to an individual in the labor community who is dedicated to improving the community and making a positive impact on those served through programs and initiatives run by the United Way. Sabitoni was involved in the construction of UWRI's new headquarters building in Olneyville. He has also been active with Building Futures, which is an initiative that began last year with a goal of placing 30 low-income residents with secure placements in union apprenticeship programs.

"Building Futures is an important public policy initiative vital to urban areas while at the same time addressing the needs of labor and business," said Sabitoni. "It provides disadvantaged young adults in urban areas with training and placement for new career opportunities they may not have otherwise had. This not only benefits the individual, but the community at large. From a union standpoint, Building Futures is assisting us in replenishing our aging membership so that our contractors can meet the future demands of the marketplace."

"The move to Olneyville is a key ingredient in United Way's repositioning itself from a fundraiser to a strategic community partner," said Bea Lanzi, Director of Labor and Community Services for UWRI. "Mr. Sabitoni's dedication to the new building has greatly assisted us in our goal to relocate to an area where the organization can serve as a catalyst in revitalizing a neighborhood."

Sabitoni is a third-generation Laborer who began his career with the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) in 1988. In addition to serving as the President of the RI Building and Construction Trades Council, he also currently holds the position of Chairman of the RI Laborers' Pension Fund and the RI Laborers' Health and Welfare Fund and is the President of the RI Laborers' Political League.

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United Way of Rhode Island (UWRI) has been working to improve the quality of life in Rhode Island's communities for over 80 years. UWRI's mission is to mobilize the caring power of the community to improve the lives of people in need and address the issues Rhode Islanders care most about. Its goal is to create long-lasting changes that prevent problems from happening in the first place. UWRI believes that all Rhode Islanders deserve the opportunity to have a better life, as when any one of us succeeds, we all succeed. It's what United Way refers to as advancing the common good. For more information, visit [www.uwri.org](http://www.uwri.org).

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