

NEWS RELEASE

For more information:

Alan Neville
EVP Communications
401-444-0652
alan.neville@uwri.org

Faye Zuckerman
VP Public Relations
401-444-0644
faye.zuckerman@uwri.org

United Way of RI Holds Annual Meeting

United Way of Rhode Island President & CEO Anthony Maione Urges Community to
“Give, advocate and volunteer to advance the common good for all Rhode Islanders.”

Providence, RI (October 15, 2008) – The United Way of Rhode Island (UWRI) held its Annual Meeting today at noon at the Providence Marriott Hotel. UWRI President and CEO Anthony Maione urged the attendees to embrace the United Way’s Live United message, which calls for everyone to become engaged in the organization’s work to advance the common good for all Rhode Islanders.

Over the past several years, UWRI has expanded activities beyond fundraising and has focused its efforts on creating a positive impact in solving the problems that Rhode Islanders care about most. Specifically, UWRI advocates for the creation of affordable housing and the eradication of chronic homelessness; provides access to job skills training and better employment opportunities so that hard-working families can do better on their own; and supports programs that stimulate kid’s success in schools.

During this time, United Way has enhanced its position in the community by combining the resources of the business, social service and government sectors to facilitate meaningful progress. Examples include:

- The passage of the \$50 million affordable housing bond in 2006.
- The initiation of *United Way 2-1-1 in Rhode Island*, UWRI’s 24/7 telephone helpline which received 106,000 calls in its first year of operation.
- A housing initiative for chronically homeless people that has dramatically improved the quality of life for program participants while saving society 40 percent of the costs associated with chronic homelessness.
- Sponsorship of Earned Income Tax Credit clinics through which over \$26 million in tax rebates and tax preparation fee savings have been returned to eligible Rhode Islanders over the last four years.
- A nationally recognized workforce development project, Skill Up, that shows great promise for moving people into good jobs and out of poverty.

- A quality rating system for daycare programs, BrightStars, that will assist parents to make the best daycare choices for their children and help all programs perform against a set of nationally recognized standards.

“Our relevance has grown and with it our influence in public policy,” said Maione. “We are strong advocates for change. We have done none of it alone. We have strengthened our position as the connection point for business, community and government because we have collaborated and built up strong relationships with all three.”

Earlier this month, UWRI announced its fundraising goal for its 2008 – 2009 Campaign. The organization hopes to raise \$16.1 million of which \$7.6 million will be geared to United Way’s Community Impact work. While the current economic climate will make it a difficult year for philanthropy, United Way enjoys the support of a faithful donor base. Last year, 440 Rhode Island based companies conducted United Way campaigns. In addition, some 230 faithfully committed donors each contributed \$10,000 or more to the annual campaign, while another 2,005 each contributed between \$1,000 and \$10,000. The combined gifts of these individual donors aggregated to nearly \$8.7 million.

During the meeting, The John H. Chafee Lifetime Community Service Award was presented posthumously to Herb E. Kaplan who died this past June. Mr. Kaplan had served on over 30 nonprofit boards and was a member of United Way’s Community Advisory Board. Christine Townsend, Mr. Kaplan’s widow, accepted the award on behalf of her late husband. Making the presentation was Zachariah Chafee, son of Senator John Chafee, for whom the award is named.

John Warren, Board Chair of United Way and Chairman and CEO of Washington Trust and Washington Trust Bancorp Inc., also paid tribute to Sharon Chancellor, a member of the United Way Board who died unexpectedly on Sept. 28 at the age of 59. Said Warren, “Over many years, Sharon worked tirelessly, bringing her expansive talents and expertise to countless meetings and strategic discussions. Her passion for social causes and her generous spirit served as an inspiration to all of us who had the privilege to know her and work with her. She will truly be missed.”

In other business, Warren was re-elected Chair of the UWRI Board of Directors, and William F. Hatfield, Market President, Bank of America Rhode Island, was re-elected to chair UWRI’s Annual Campaign. Hatfield also serves on UWRI’s Board of Directors as Chair of the Resource Development Committee.

Other persons newly elected to the Board include Michael Clarkin, Sabina Matos, Christopher Medici, Sandra Pattie, Donna Sams, and Alec Taylor. Board re-appointments include Jonathan Fain, George Nee and Samuel Suls.

Executive Officers of the Board in addition to Warren and Hatfield include Anthony Maione, President and CEO of United Way of RI; J. Michael Costello, First Vice Chair; Bradford S. Dimeo, Secretary; Jennifer L. Wood, Treasurer; Donna Sams, Chair Impact Group on Solutions for Children Youth and Families and Barbara Silvis, Chair Impact Group on Helping People in Crisis.

Retiring from the Board were Tina C. Benik and Joseph MarcAurele.

New Appointments to UWRI’s Community Advisory Board include Doris Blanchard, Jorge Elorza, Domingo Morel, Adeola Oredola, and Claudia Cardozo Tarullo. Re-appointments include Carolina

50 Valley Street
Providence, RI 02909
tel 401.444.0600
fax 401.444.0635
www.LIVEUNITEDri.org



Bernal, Jose Gonzalez, Margaret Holland McDuff, Linda Newton, Keith Oliveira, Thomas Papa, Cate Roberts, and Daniel Weisman.

Community Advisory Board retirees included Barbara Arcangeli, Sean Coffey, Juana Horton and Neil Steinberg.

About United Way of Rhode Island

United Way of Rhode Island has been working to improve the quality of life in Rhode Island 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. United Way's goal is to create long-lasting changes that prevent problems from happening in the first place. We believe that all Rhode Islanders deserve the opportunity to have a better life, as when any one of us succeeds, we all succeed. At United Way, we refer to this as advancing the common good. For more information, visit www.liveunitedri.org

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER. LIVE UNITED.™