

Immediate Release



Caption: Sandy Smithson of Burrillville is honored for her 30-years of service to United Way of R.I. Photo by Keri Ducharme

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Burrillville resident reaches 30 years at United Way of R.I.

Sandy Smithson celebrates leadership role at helping donors invest donations

Providence, R.I. (April 2009) – United Way, at an upcoming conference in Detroit, will honor Sandy Smithson of Burrillville for her longstanding commitment and dedication to ensuring donations get to the right charities.

United Way of Rhode Island will salute Smithson with a 30-Year Service Award. Smithson along with other honorees will be recognized in May at the 2009 United Way Staff Leaders Conference.

Smithson, who is the Philanthropy Accounting Manager at UWRI, oversees the accounts of those who donate more than \$1,000 to the United Way of R.I. She handles their disbursement requests ensuring that the money goes where the donor has deemed it. Annually, the philanthropy account, which she oversees, is more than \$5 million.

“From the start here, I made an effort and continue to contribute to the common good,” Smithson said. “I’d like to think I LIVE UNITED.”

“Sandy has been a valued member of our United Way of R.I. family,” said Anthony Maione, President and CEO of United Way of Rhode Island. “She has some three decades of

institutional knowledge. As a result, she is the go-to person on many matters, and she always has answers.”

On Oct. 2, 1978, Smithson began her three decades at United Way of R.I. Her first job at the nonprofit was as an administrative assistant in the then newly formed Agency Relations and Allocations Department. (Today it’s called Community Services.) She went on to supervisory positions for the United Way Campaign, its Labor Department and Major Gifts before landing in her current role as Philanthropy Account Manager. It’s a job she has held for the past 12 years.

Smithson, a native of Rhode Island and self-admitted animal lover, lives in Burrillville with her husband John and Rottweiler, Angel. She has a son and a granddaughter who live in Rhode Island. She also has two step-daughters and four grandsons. She comes from a close-knit family, which consists of three sisters and one brother. All of them live in Rhode Island.

United Way established the 30-Year Service Award in the early 1970’s to recognize the achievements and lifelong commitment of those individuals who have dedicated their careers to advancing the common good through work with United Way.

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.