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## Immediate Release

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# UWRI gives Cranston's Caramadre family prestigious Tocqueville Society Philanthropy Award

Providence, R.I. (May 29, 2009): Cranston's Joe Caramadre, President and CEO of Estate Planning Resources, his wife, Paula, and three children, Michael, 15, Amelia, 13 and Daniel, 9, received United Way's highest honor, the Tocqueville Society Philanthropy Award.

They accepted the award on May 19 at a dinner party-awards ceremony held at United Way's headquarters in Olneyville. More than 140 guests, mostly members of the Tocqueville Society, celebrated under a tent on UWRI's patio overlooking the Woonasquatucket River.

The tables were decorated with centerpieces of spring flowers, and the event was catered by Guy Abelson. Guests left with a party favor of a flowering plant tagged, "Thank you, Tocqueville members: You are the roots of our community."

This year's award was framed original art work created by Burrillville high school sophomore Mike Bailey-Gates, who was the winner of the LIVE UNITED Art Contest. United Way of Rhode Island invited high school students involved in the arts organizations, AS220, New Urban Arts and RiverzEdge, to submit works illustrating how they LIVE UNITED. Bailey-Gates's winning visual piece was a photo image of young people.

John Warren, UWRI's board chair and Chairman and CEO of The Washington Trust Co., presented the Caramadre family with the award. "The family supports in excess of 40 charities, and they have instilled in their children the value of supporting those in less fortunate circumstances," he said. "Joe and Paula have been referred to as 'guardian angels' as they have become the last resort for many charities, which would not have kept their doors open if not for their intervention."

Since the late 1980s, United Way of R.I. annually has paid tribute to a person or family who embodies the values of Alexis de Tocqueville, a mid 19<sup>th</sup>-century French political thinker and historian who admired America's spirit of volunteerism and advancing the common good.

### Caption information

Photos by Keri Ducharme/United Way of R.I.



*Cranston's Caramadre family on May 19 during a dinner awards ceremony at United Way of R.I. in Olneyville received UWRI's highest honor, the Tocqueville Society Philanthropy Award. From left, Michael, 15, Amelia, 13, Danniell, 9, Joe and Paula Caramadre.*



*Nancy and Harry Hanoian of Seekonk pose in front of original art pieces from the LIVE UNITED Art Contest during the Tocqueville Society annual philanthropy award party and ceremony on May 19 at United Way of R.I. headquarters in Olneyville. Keri Ducharme/United Way of R.I.*



*Annmarie Garceau and Leonard DiLorenzo of North Kingstown participated in the May 19 Tocqueville Society awards celebration to honor the philanthropic Caramadre family held under a tent on the patio at the United Way of R.I.'s headquarters in Olneyville.. Photos by Keri Ducharme/United Way of R.I.*



*From left, the winner of the LIVE UNITED Art Contest, Mike Bailey-Gates, a sophomore at Burrillville High School, poses with Tocqueville Society Philanthropy Award winner, Joe Caramadre, at UWRI's Tocqueville awards ceremony on May 19 at United Way of R.I. Photos by Keri Ducharme/United Way of R.I.*

### 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

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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](http://www.LIVEUNITEDri.org).

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