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Rappahannock United Way thanks local individuals, organizations

FREDERICKSBURG, Va. (March 13, 2013) – Rappahannock United Way (RUW) hosted the LIVE UNITED Awards on Tuesday, March 12, an event to recognize and thank corporate contributors, community leaders, nonprofit partners, loyal donors and dedicated volunteers. Awards were given to organizations and individuals that give, advocate and volunteer to make an impact in the community.

The event also celebrated RUW's 2012 Annual Campaign which raised a total of \$3,455,033. RUW praised the giving spirit of the local community for stepping up to contribute to the campaign despite the still tough economic times.

"When these dollars are leveraged with sponsorships, in-kind contributions, the value of volunteer hours and the refunds to our local economy through RUW's free tax preparation services, over \$6 million was returned to our community," said 2012 Campaign Chairman Amanda Talbert, Public Affairs Coordinator for GEICO, to the crowd of over 200 individuals in attendance.

Awards were presented in four categories: Give, Advocate, Volunteer and the Chairman's Awards of Excellence. The following are the award winners listed by category.

Volunteer Awards:

Volunteer of the Year – Mary Palmer (PNC Bank)

- Given to an individual who demonstrates commitment and has given back to the community through long-term volunteering.

Excellence in Volunteer Engagement – Wegmans

- Given to an organization that successfully inspires and engages its employees in volunteer work throughout the year.

Give Awards:

Local Government Campaign Top Dog Award – Stafford County Government

- Given to a local government or school system with best combination of highest average gift, employee per-capita giving, percent participation and percent increase over the previous year in the Local Government Campaign.

Proud Puppy – Fredericksburg City Schools

- Given to a local government or school system with the most improved campaign over the previous year.

Local Government Campaign Coordinator of the Year – Judy Barnes (Stafford County Government)

- Given to an individual who leads their Local Government Campaign utilizing best practices and goes above and beyond expectations.

Highest Contributor – GEICO - \$725,031

- Given to a company that leads a RUW campaign that produces the largest total raised.

VIP of the Year – William G (Billy) Beale (Union First Market Bank)

- Given to a CEO or Senior Manager of a company who openly and enthusiastically supports the RUW campaign, boosts morale and promotes social responsibility.

Honor Roll – PBGH, LLP & PermaTreat Pest Control

- Given to two companies who achieved campaign growth for five consecutive years (2008-2012)

First Step Award – Patricio Enterprises

- Given to a company that ran a first time best practice campaign with outstanding results.

Campaign Coordinators of the Year

- Given to individuals who led their respective workplace campaigns above and beyond the expectations

Small companies (1-50 employees) – David Williams (Allen & Allen)

Medium companies (51-250 employees) – Joshua Young (BB&T)

Large companies (251+ employees) – Mary Louise Holmes & Michelle Wagaman (Rappahannock Area Community Services Board)

Advocate Awards:

Advocate of the Year – Linda Worrell

- Given to an individual who makes his or her voice heard on behalf of Rappahannock United Way and the issues that affect our community.

Community Impact Partner of the Year – Mary Washington Healthcare

- Given to an organization that has successfully partnered with RUW in one of its main focus areas (Education, Income and Health)

Chairman's Awards of Excellence:

Excellence in Leadership Giving – GEICO

- Given to an organization with the highest amount of leadership donors (those who give at the highest level.) GEICO had over 345 Gold level givers (\$500-\$999) and 51 Platinum level (\$1000 and above).

Excellence in Corporate Spirit Award – Rappahannock Electric Cooperative

- Given to an organization that promotes fundraising in a fun and eventful way to boost morale and encourages employees to get involved in the community.

LIVE UNITED Award (Best Overall) – Hilldrup Moving & Storage

- Given to an organization that most embodies the spirit to LIVE UNITED by encouraging employees to Give, Advocate and Volunteer.

Rappahannock United Way also extended a special thank you to the 2012 Campaign Committee:

Chairman – Amanda Talbert

Local Government Campaign Chairman – Bev Cameron (Fredericksburg City Government)

Commercial Division – Carmela Butler (CVS) & Michael Gunnels (Rappahannock Electric Cooperative)

Construction Division – Rob Dodd, Jr. (DLR Contracting)

Defense Contractor Division – Ken Lapin

Financial Services Division – Kevin Fastabend (Virginia Commerce Bank)

Nonprofit Division Sara Branner (Smart Beginnings Rappahannock Area)

Professional Division/Legal & Accounting – Ann Kloeckner (Rappahannock Legal Services)

Small Business – David Bellman (StellarOne Bank)

“It takes everyone in the community working together to create a brighter future,” said Janel Donohue, President of Rappahannock United Way. “Today, we celebrated the work of individuals and business that have stepped up to make a difference and thanked them for their passion and dedication to our community. Without them, none of the work we do would be possible.”

About Rappahannock United Way: Rappahannock United Way (RUW) is a local nonprofit organization serving the city of Fredericksburg and the counties of Caroline, King George, Spotsylvania and Stafford. RUW works to advance the common good by focusing on Education, Income and Health with the goal that more households emerge from poverty and achieve greater financial stability. RUW encourages all community members to LIVE UNITED and to Give, Advocate and Volunteer to help reach the goal in our community. Visit www.RappahannockUnitedWay.org to learn more.

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