

Press Release

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UNITED WAY OF DUTCHESS COUNTY'S ANNUAL MEETING TO HONOR THE COMMUNITY'S UNSUNG HEROES WITH THE 2007 SPIRIT OF DUTCHESS COUNTY AWARDS

United Way of Dutchess County will be holding the 2007 Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 21, 2007 from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel. During this event United Way leadership will review the numerous successes achieved during this past fiscal year, and map out the Community Impact plans moving forward. In addition, the 2007 Spirit of Dutchess County Awards will be presented, honoring the volunteer champions in the community.

“2006 was an amazing year for this community, during which our United Way laid the groundwork to reach new heights in building a stronger and healthier Dutchess County” said Anne M. Beaulieu, President & CEO of United Way. “Our recently completed Community Assessment has clearly identified the most pressing needs facing our neighbors, and our entire organization is committed to creating lasting and meaningful improvements in these areas in the years to come.” United Way’s areas of focus in 2007 and beyond will be discussed in detail during this annual review, and includes Providing Basic Needs, Promoting Financial Stability and Preparing Young Children for Success.

In addition to summarizing the achievements of this past year, the 2007 Spirit of Dutchess County Awards will be presented. Each year United Way of Dutchess County recognizes one adult, one youth and one group of volunteer champions who exemplify the very spirit of volunteerism. This spirit is at the core of United Way’s success. These unsung heroes give selflessly of their time, their talent and their treasure to meet the needs of the community. They provide the generosity and care which helps thousands of Dutchess residents, which in turn improves the quality of live for everyone.

2006 Spirit of Dutchess County Award recipients included adult category winner Ms. Jane Konitz from Wappingers Falls, a volunteer for 25 years at the Rural and Migrant Ministry. The 2006 youth award was given to Dutchess County BOCES BETA Interact Club Vice President Christopher Davis from Poughkeepsie, and the very first Spirit of Dutchess County group award was presented to the Grace Smith House "Two Days of Grace" Team of Jennifer Paden of Poughkeepsie, Rosalind Ashford of Poughkeepsie and Geeta Desai of Wappingers Falls.

The nominees for the 2007 Spirit of Dutchess County Awards, who come from a wide variety of organizations, are:

Susan DeKeukelaere	<i>Dutchess Outreach</i>
Susan Campbell	<i>American Red Cross</i>
Charles Bonsignore	<i>RSVP</i>
Deborah Bailey-Browne	<i>Various Organizations</i>
John Gilbert, Jr.	<i>Hands On! The Hudson Valley</i>
Tina Fryar	<i>Harvest Community</i>
Margaret Ringwood	<i>American Heart Assoc., March of Dimes, Muscular Dystrophy</i>
Deborah Goodpaster	<i>Mediation Center</i>
Allen Delmar	<i>YMCA, Town of Poughkeepsie, St. Martin's, American Heart Assoc.</i>
Ms. Debbie Scofield	<i>Tioronda Garden Club</i>
George & Nancy Metz	<i>CYO</i>
Andrew & Melody Tokash	<i>Literacy Connections</i>
Karrah Brennan	<i>Cornell Cooperative Extension</i>
Clayton Stephens	<i>Cornell Cooperative Extension</i>

Reservations for this event can be made by calling (845) 471-1900, extension 101, or by visiting United Way of Dutchess County's website at www.unitedwaydutchess.org. Contributions to the United Way of Dutchess County Community Fund support a portfolio of health and human service programs that served nearly 50,000 Dutchess County residents last year.

The mission at United Way of Dutchess County is to build a stronger, healthier community by raising resources and developing partnerships that make a measurable difference in people's lives. United Way's vision is to be the area's premier community-impact organization and a leader in advancing dialogue on Dutchess County's health and human care issues. Contributors recognize United Way as the best organization for their support because of the measurable results the organization has on the quality of life here in Dutchess County.

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July 13, 2007