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UNITED WAY OF CHITTENDEN COUNTY CELEBRATES CAMPAIGN SUCCESS
Community Impact and Campaign Awards Announced

---- EMBARGOED UNTIL MAY 29, 2015 ----

May 29, 2015 (Burlington, VT): A crowd of nearly 400 gathered to celebrate the community's support for United Way of Chittenden County and the success of the 2014 Community Campaign that raised \$3.85 million to support funded programs, strategic initiatives and volunteer recruitment efforts in Chittenden County. At the celebration, United Way also presented five annual awards to individuals and businesses deserving of recognition for their campaign participation and dedication to United Way's mission.

United Way of Chittenden County is a leader of community change and improvement, investing strategically in programs and initiatives in the areas of education, income and health. In addition to mobilizing volunteers and making targeted financial investments to support human services programs in Chittenden County, the organization unites nonprofits, government, businesses, and thousands of individuals with shared goals to collaborate.

Executive Director Martha Maksym, proudly addressed the crowd of friends and supporters, " ... United Way of Chittenden County unites people to work together to find solutions for the challenges facing our community: we bring together volunteers, businesses, institutions and community leaders to advance the common good. I am so proud to be a part of this movement. Because of our strong network of community partnerships, we can work together to achieve great things and improve the live of our neighbors who struggle."

Following her remarks, Maksym presented the highly coveted Community Impact Award, which honors extraordinary individuals and organizations that positively impact our community. The 2015 award was presented to Jan Demers of CVOEO, John Collinsworth and UVM Medical Center, and John Caulo, Tom Bonnette and

Champlain College for their collaboration in creating a temporary winter warming shelter that housed 92 of our community's most vulnerable homeless individuals during one of the harshest winters on record.

Demers, Collinsworth, Bonnette and Caulo were critical partners in planning and implementing this new strategy for keeping our most at-risk homeless population out of the cold. "The goal of this effort was to offer shelter to our most vulnerable neighbors experiencing homelessness – even those who may be under the influence – and use it as an access point for screening and enrollment for other available services and programs," said Maksym. "After being welcomed at the warming shelter, six guests enrolled in treatment services for substance abuse, and ten moved to transitional and permanent housing. These results are priceless – the lives of these people have truly been changed as a result of this work."

Celebrating the success of the 2014 Community Campaign, Reed Curry, United Way's Community Campaign Manager, announced the workplace campaign award winners. Hickok & Boardman Companies was awarded a *Lifetime Achievement Award* for exceptional campaign management, engagement and company participation. In her awards presentation, Curry said, "United Way is embedded in [Hickok and Boardman Companies'] culture. I've heard former employees, long-removed from their ranks, extol the culture of giving that this organization promotes."

Jon Sama and Mary Provost of University of Vermont were named *Keypersons of the Year* for leading their company's campaign to overwhelming success. Free Press Media was honored with the annual *LIVE UNITED Award* for engaging the whole community in the United Way call to action to Give, Advocate and Volunteer throughout the year. Select Design took home the *Affinity Award* for exceptional campaign participation and leadership.

Also at the event, Michael Seaver, President of the United Way of Chittenden County Board of Directors, honored retiring board members Brett Smith, Ellen Kane, Chuck Maniscalco, Charlotte Ancel and David Parker for their many years of service.

For more information about United Way of Chittenden County, call 864-7541 or visit www.unitedwaycc.org

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