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United Way of Chittenden County Honors Volunteerism and Advocacy at fourth annual LIVE UNITED BREAKFAST, Launches 2014 Community Campaign

September 4, 2014 (Burlington, Vermont): United Way of Chittenden County honored 42 local volunteers during the fourth annual Building Block Awards ceremony at the LIVE UNITED Breakfast, presented the fifth annual ADVOCATE Award and announced the 2014 Community Campaign goal. Award winners volunteer in variety of roles within United Way core programs or funded programs through local nonprofits and were nominated by friends and colleagues.

Executive Director Martha Maksym said, “This event is our opportunity to recognize the precious gifts of time and caring that advocates and volunteers offer our community. Volunteerism and advocacy leverage the gifts of resources from our donors and are critical elements of the work that we do. Time is a precious gift.”

“At United Way, we focus our energy on community challenges within Education, Income and Health – and we implement solutions to issues that no single organization can solve. It takes the work of a whole community to address these complex problems. United Way isn’t just our name; it’s how we work. We unite the whole community to work together,” said Maksym.

Charlotte Ancel, President of the Board of Directors, thanked the event sponsor – the Argosy Foundation – as well as Mutual of America and in-kind sponsors the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts and Keurig Green Mountain for making the LIVE UNITED event possible.

Fifth Annual ADVOCATE Award Presented

Executive Director Martha Maksym spoke about the importance of advocacy as she presented the sixth annual ADVOCATE Award to Sisters of Mercy for their long-standing tradition of advocacy around social justice and poverty in our community. “The Sisters of Mercy, are a group of women who, for decades, in Chittenden County and Vermont have shown us all, through words and more importantly through deed of kindness, caring, generosity and faith how to speak up against poverty, homelessness and injustice. There is a lot we can all learn from this selfless and generous group of women if we all watch and listen.”

Community Campaign Goal Announced

2014 Community Campaign Chairperson Robert DiPalma of Paul Frank + Collins, P.C. thanked the volunteers that guide the annual campaign and called upon attendees and the community to help achieve United Way's goal of raising \$3,850,000 to support local human service programs and strategic initiatives. DiPalma leads over 100 volunteer ambassadors that will unite and inspire local businesses and their employees to donate to United Way of Chittenden County through a workplace campaign. Addressing the attendees, DiPalma said, "This community needs volunteers and advocates like you. This campaign needs businesses and individuals to participate. We cannot build the community we want if we are content with the community we have. We need to inspire others to join this movement and give in whatever way they can."

About United Way of Chittenden County:

United Way of Chittenden County unites our whole community to solve complex problems and harness the power of people to create a stronger Chittenden County. United Way convenes advocates, organizations and institutions to address the community's most pressing issues, focusing on the building blocks of a vibrant community: Education, Income and Health. The problems facing our community are complex; they are issues that no single organization or individual alone can solve – real change is possible when nonprofit, public and private sectors work together. United Way has the networks, partnerships and strategic initiatives to improve the lives of our family, friends and neighbors.

For more information, get involved or campaign at your place of business, visit www.unitedwaycc.org.

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