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United Way and Howland Foundation Award \$60,000 in Program Grants

(Vestal, NY)—The United Way of Broome County and the Helen T. Howland Foundation have agreed to provide Venture and Special Assistance Grants, totaling \$60,053, to 12 programs. Recipient programs are either innovative, new human service programs in Broome County or special one-time purchases and projects that demonstrate a high level of need. The funds will be distributed during 2009.

The one-time grants help fund programs that meet the needs of the local community and also fit within United Way's funding priorities, or "investment categories". The grants are part of United Way's effort in "Building a Stronger Community", which is one of the organization's six Areas of Community Service. Grants were awarded to United Way member agencies as well as health and human service agencies not affiliated with United Way.

United Way of Broome County contributed \$25,000 raised from its 2007 campaign fund-drive to fund the grants while the Howland Foundation contributed \$35,053.45.

Following are the 12 projects and programs that will be funded by the grants:

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- Program grant to **Alzheimer's Association, Central New York Chapter** to provide personal care services to elderly people with the physical limitations, educational and supportive services for their caregivers, and education on financial issues and fraud prevention for the high risk elderly. These issues will be addressed through training and educational seminars to be conducted throughout Broome County, which would be free and open to the public. **(\$8,350)**

- Program grant to **Boys and Girls Club of Western Broome Family Center** (a United Way member agency) to work with parents and caregivers to help families spend more valuable time together and provide a network of support for both the Boys and Girls Club members and their families. The program will focus on getting fathers more involved with their children and provide support to Kinship Care recipients and caregivers, as well as to children in foster care. **(\$4,000)**

- Special assistant grant to **Conklin Presbyterian Church** to purchase computers, active play equipment and supplies to expand the School-Aged Child Care (SACC) program. This is a non-religious program that provides working parents with before and after school child care with activities designed to enhance learning and development. **(\$4,110)**

- Program grant to **Danielle House** to provide housing, transportation to and from the hospital, meals, comfort, etc. to any elderly patient who lives in the outlying areas of Broome County and is receiving extended out-patient treatment at either Lourdes or United Health Services. **(\$5,000)**

- Special assistant grant to **Day Nursery Association** to renovate a large open, unused garage space within the childcare building of the Binghamton Housing Authority into a safe large activity room. This will avail an appropriate area for physical activity for the children when the playground becomes inaccessible, due to inclement weather or use by another party. The grant will be used to purchase protective wall mats, flooring, and paint. **(\$5,457.01)**

- Program grant to **Haven After School Program** to help pay the salary of the basketball coach mentor for one year. This program is attended by youth aged 14-18, who are predominantly black and 90 percent male. This demographic is the most at risk of being involved with a crime after school. The male coach mentor is an important support for this targeted group. Since 2002, this program has grown from a

once a week lunch program to an independent non-profit organization that opens its doors for three afternoons per week in addition to the weekly lunch program. **(\$4,019)**

- Program grant to **Mental Health Association of the Southern Tier, Inc.**, (a United Way member agency) to match trained community volunteers in one-to-one mentoring relationships with youth aged 5-17 from diverse cultural, racial and economic backgrounds who are at risk of developing emotional, social, and behavioral problems. The program is provided at no cost to the youth served.

(\$10,750)

- Special assistance grant to **Mom's House of Endicott, New York, Inc.**, to purchase a portable defibrillator and recommended accessories and prepare the staff to use the equipment if anyone has a heart attack, and to purchase touch free waterless sanitizer dispensers along with sanitizers for each classroom to enable the organization to be more efficient in stopping the spread of germs. **(\$2,327.44)**

- Program grant to **Rebuilding Together Broome County** to provide free home repairs for low income elderly, disabled, or families with children. Five or six homes will be selected each year for work of up to \$2,000 each. Material would be mostly donated and labor would be from volunteers. If interested, homeowners can assist with the repairs. **(\$5,000)**

- Program grant to **Rural Health Network of South Central New York** to improve access for homebound elderly living in northern Broome County to nutritious, locally produced foods at the Whitney Point Farmers Market. The food will be delivered to the homebound by a volunteer and when feasible, the volunteer will assist the client to the market so they can shop for themselves. **(\$4,200)**

- Special assistance grant to **Volunteers of America of Western New York** to purchase and install two computers and printers for use by clients staying in the VOA housing programs. The computers would assist the clients as they work to build the skills necessary for self-sufficient lives. The VOA staff and volunteers would provide computer classes and one-on-one instruction training to the clients to assist them in building basic computer literacy skills. **(\$2,040)**

- Special assistance grant to **YWCA of Binghamton/Broome County** to purchase therapy and fitness equipment for the organization's Fitness and Aquatics center, which offers quality affordable programming to low income/high risk elderly as well as disabled or limited-mobility clients. **(\$4,800)**

“The activities and programs receiving grants in the coming year will touch our community in essential and creative new ways, with benefits that will show for years to come,” said Doris Getty, chair of the Venture and Special Assistance Grant Evaluation Committee. The allocation of funds provides for a variety of activities to benefit the people of Broome County.

The Venture Grant Program of United Way of Broome County was permanently established in 1990 when its Board of Directors earmarked up to one percent of the allocable funds from each year's annual fund-raising campaign to be set aside for such grants. The program was later expanded to cover special assistance grants as well.

Helen Thomas Howland was born in Binghamton, but she resided in Ithaca for much of her life. A trust was established under her will in order to benefit the community. M&T Bank manages the Helen T. Howland Foundation.

In 1993, the Howland Foundation arranged for United Way of Broome County to provide recommendations to the foundation for a portion of its funding decisions. United Way agreed to use its Venture Grant process to develop these recommendations.

At the beginning of February, United Way of Broome County mailed Venture and Special Assistance Grant Request for Proposals to a comprehensive list of human service providers in Broome County. Completed applications were due in mid-March. The Venture and Special Assistance Grant Evaluation Committee met in April to evaluate the proposals. The committee's recommendation was submitted for confirmation to the United Way's Community Services Division in May and finally approved by the organization's Board of Directors.

United Way sent its funding recommendations to the Howland Foundation following approval by the Board of Directors.

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