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United Way Annual Awards Celebration Recognizes Community Leaders

(Abingdon, Virginia) – There were many awards to be handed out this year as the United Way of Russell and Washington Counties hosted its' annual awards celebration February 16, 2011 at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center. "It's an opportunity for us to give thanks to those individuals and companies who made a difference in our campaign," said Sheriff Steve Dye, 2010 Russell County Campaign Chairman. Several awards went to local companies and organizations that supported the United Way in 2010.

"United Way of Russell and Washington Counties was able to raise \$1.1M to financially support local non-profit and health and human service agencies in Russell and Washington Counties", said Vaughn Groves, 2010 Washington County Campaign Chairman.

Alpha Natural Resources, Carter Machinery, Town of Abingdon and Utility Trailer Manufacturing Co. all received Growth & Innovation Awards within their organizations. The Spirit of the Community Award this year went to the employees of the Town of Abingdon. Donating over \$127,000 to the campaign, Alpha Natural Resources received Top Giver Award and Employee Campaign Team of the Year Award.

Companies receiving special acknowledgements included the 2010 Corporate Partners: Food City, Universal Fiber Systems, and Alpha Natural Resources, each of which contributed \$20,000 to cover the operational expenses of the United Way, thereby allowing more donor dollars to be reinvested in the local health and human service programs.

The new 2011 Executive Officers for United Way were announced as: President – Fred W. Parker, Washington County, VA, Vice-President – Stacey Pomrenke, Bristol Virginia Utilities, Treasurer – John Snodgrass, Retired – Lee Bank & Trust, Assistant Treasurer – Gloria Smith, First Bank & Trust and Secretary – Suzanne Lay, Washington County Chamber of Commerce.

Come spring the United Way will begin work on the 2011 Campaign with the new Washington County Chair Dr. Theresa Emory with Highlands Pathology and Russell County Chair Brian K. Patton, Commonwealth's Attorney for Russell County, VA.

United Way is a volunteer organization that provides support and visibility through tools, partners, advocacy, and other resources that enables individuals to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of their communities. Currently, the United Way of Russell and Washington Counties allocates resources to 32 partner agencies that address the most pressing human service needs in Russell and Washington County Virginia. Those wishing to learn more about United Way efforts to make a lasting impact on the needs of our community are encouraged to visit the organizations website at www.RWCunitedway.org

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In Photo: Sheriff Steve Dye, Travis Staton and Vaughn R. Groves



In Photo: Tonya Triplett, Kim Kingsley and Deborah Icenhour with the Town of Abingdon.