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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **UNITED WAY ANNOUNCES 2011-2013 PROGRAM FUNDING *\$4 million for programs in education, income, and health and wellness***

(BUFFALO, NY) – United Way of Buffalo & Erie County today announced it is investing \$4 million for each of the next two years in 78 human service programs that most successfully support and drive the organization’s imperatives in the areas of Education, Income, and Health and Wellness.

The \$4 million awarded go to those programs judged by subject experts as most worthy, among 147 applicant programs seeking \$9.6 million in funding for 87 agencies.

United Way president Michael Weiner noted that UWBECC’s funding commitment is significant in today’s economy.

“We are proud to be maintaining the same total investment amount - \$4 million – as we are currently investing in programs. This is not a small achievement given the economic climate in our community and the country over the past several years,” he said. “Although the total amount is contingent on the success of our 2010 Campaign, which formally concludes on March 31, we are optimistic that we will be able to maintain that commitment. And, if the campaign exceeds expectations, we will increase the number of programs funded.”

The award announcement was held at the Child Advocacy Center (CAC), a program of Child and Adolescent Treatment Services (CATS), which will receive \$55,000 per year for the 2011-2013 cycle. The CAC provides comprehensive services to children who are victims of sexual abuse.

“CATS and the CAC are pleased to receive the continued support of United Way after a rigorous review,” said Bonnie Glazer, CATS executive director. “This funding enables us to continue to serve some of our community’s most vulnerable children and families so that they can break the cycle of abuse and build a brighter future.”

Roger Cominsky, partner at Hiscock & Barclay, served as volunteer chair of the investment process and outlined the funding that will be distributed among United Way’s three focus areas of Education, Income, and Health and Wellness. In education, the organization is investing \$2 million in 35 local programs designed to ensure that children and youth reach their full learning potential. One million dollars will be invested in 19 programs in income, all of which help Erie

County families achieve financial stability. In health and wellness, 24 programs received funding for a total of \$1 million. These programs focus on helping Erie County residents to be safe and engage in healthy behaviors.

“I have been involved in the United Way investment process for many years, and I am truly proud to make this announcement today,” Cominsky said. “I want to extend my thanks to the nearly 80 volunteers, the majority of whom are subject matter experts, who gave so generously of their time to carefully review and rate the applications we received this year. It was a rigorous process, and we are confident in the quality of the programs we are funding.”

Weiner discussed the improvements made to the funding decision process based on the outcomes of the organization’s last process, completed in 2009.

These improvements include providing applicants with extensive education and training in outcome measurement and Results Based Accountability; sharing the scoring criteria as part of the application so that applicants could clearly understand how they would be evaluated; and timing the funding announcement so that non-funded programs have ample time to adjust their service delivery accordingly. In addition, volunteers engaged in the application review process included many subject matter experts, including representatives from local colleges, universities and government.

UWBEC’s program funding represents only a portion of the organization’s total investment in improving quality of life in Erie County. In all, United Way invested \$13.3 million back into the Erie County community this year. This includes \$4,440,000 in direct program investments, including programs such as the WNY 2-1-1 Call Center and American Red Cross Disaster Services; \$2,600,000 in grant funding secured on behalf of partner agencies in the community; \$2,700,000 in United Way programs and initiatives such as Creating Assets, Savings and Hope (CASH) and activities like Day of Caring; and \$3,560,000 in contributions designated by donors to specific agencies through the 2009 Campaign.

Ultimately, Weiner said, the organization’s program investments represent a tangible link between the contributions of United Way donors and improved quality of life in Erie County.

“The 78 programs we celebrate today make a difference for children, adults, families, and senior citizens, and we are grateful to each of them for their extraordinary work. Our donors entrust us with their charitable contributions; in turn, we entrust those dollars to these programs because we know they have a positive impact on the lives of people with substantial unmet needs.”

#### **MORE ABOUT THE UNITED WAY**

*The mission of the United Way of Buffalo & Erie County is to bring people, organizations and resources together to improve community well being. For more information, and for a complete list of funded programs, visit [www.uwbec.org](http://www.uwbec.org).*