

## **United Way celebrates another record-breaking campaign**

Columbus, GA (February 15, 2008) – United Way is making history ... again. For the third year in a row, United Way has met and exceeded goal. More than \$144,000 over the \$6.8 million goal, the organization has set a new fundraising record with a grand total of \$6,944,259. “This is the most money ever raised in our community. We are extremely proud of what has been accomplished and the services in this community and the people that will be helped are incredibly grateful for your generosity, Doll said.”

“The generosity of the people and companies of the Chattahoochee Valley is amazing; Over 35,000 individuals trust us to ensure that local volunteers get results with their investment,” stated Scott Ferguson, President and CEO. The entire community has made this possible and we all should be proud. When compared to similar sized communities, the Valley area is a leader in supporting United Way, and for that, I say thank you.

In lieu of the winter season and the theme “Flip Flops in February”, the Hilton Garden Inn ballroom was transformed into a beach themed venue. Musician, Scott Kirby, provided entertainment. His music transported the more than 350 people attending the event, all the way to Key West, Kirby’s hometown. The Hula Hallau O Kaleigh Dancers helped to transform the audience to the shores of Hawaii.

At the end of the event, it was announced that Abbott Turner, a partner of Charbroil Steakhouse Restaurant and retired W.C. Bradley Executive, would chair the 2008 campaign. Turner said, “United Way has a long standing tradition in our community and I’m honored to serve as the next chair. Supporting this community has been passed down through the generations and now it is our turn to make a difference. I encourage everyone to get involved with United Way in any way possible – whether it be serving on an allocations committee or volunteering in the campaign season – it is an extraordinary experience.

Other highlights of the evening included a drawing for a 2007 Nissan Versa donated by Rob Doll Nissan. The winner, Mr. Charles Book, an Inspector with Pratt & Whitney, Columbus Engine Center, was randomly drawn from more than five thousand entries. Seven local companies received awards for demonstrating the highest level of team spirit and commitment to United Way and its mission. The award recipients and corresponding award categories are:

Chairman’s Award of Excellence

Alexander Electric and CB&T

This award gives recognition for exceptional campaign performance.

Spirit Award

ALAGASCO, Bill Heard Chevrolet Family, Flournoy Companies and Litho-Krome Company

This award recognizes company campaigns that truly embody the “spirit” of United Way and who seeks ways to make a difference in the community throughout the year.

Rising Star

SunFresh Beverages and West Georgia Orthodontics

Recognizes companies holding new campaigns with outstanding performance.

The lead sponsor of the event was Growing Room Franchising System, Inc. Other sponsors were Georgia Power-A Southern Company, Automated Business Machines, Homemaster Builders, Mutual of America, Dr. Susan Andrews and Murray Solomon.