

**United Way  
for the Greater New Orleans Area**



For Immediate Release

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**United Way raises \$22.6 million for the Greater New Orleans Area**

**(New Orleans)** On Wednesday, May 20, United Way for the Greater New Orleans Area will hold a Victory Event at the Intercontinental Hotel to celebrate its successful 2008-2009 Campaign Season. United Way exceeded this year's \$21.4 million goal and raised a record-breaking \$22.6 million. The event will recognize top corporations, organizations and their employees who helped raise the record-breaking total to support the health and human service programs in Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, Tangipahoa, St. Bernard and St. Tammany Parishes.

"Despite the current economic climate, people in Southeast Louisiana continue to be generous. They know their donations will go to programs that improve lives and communities," said United Way for the Greater New Orleans Area President and CEO, **Gary Ostroske**.

"Since the back-to-back hurricanes of 2005, the United Way for the Greater New Orleans Area has been able to raise over \$82.5 million," said **Al Sassone**, United Way COO. "That money goes to fund organizations and programs that provide vital support services to people in the areas of health, income and education, as well as a safety net for people in crisis. The business community and United Way are a critically important partnership in the successful rebuilding of the Greater New Orleans Area."

Reaching this significant campaign achievement has allowed United Way unprecedented opportunities to provide services and programs to post-Katrina New Orleans. Top companies and their employees who contributed to the successful campaign include **Shell Oil Company** and **Entergy Corporation**, who contributed \$1.3 and \$1.2 million respectively in individual and corporate contributions. Other top companies include **Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold, Inc.**; **Whitney National Bank**; **Lockheed Martin Manned Space Systems-Michoud**; **Chevron Corporation**; **Reily Companies/Reily Foods**; **Capital One, NA**; **Energy Partners, Ltd.**; **AT&T**; and **Northrop Grumman Ship Systems**, all who raised between \$240,000 and \$600,000.

"I came into this year's campaign prepared to motivate two powerful words into action: commitment and involvement," said **José Suquet**, 2008-2009 Campaign Chairman. "I am pleased that the reaction was a campaign that raised more than any previous year in our area's history. United Way validates on a daily basis that anything is possible when we unite, get involved and share a passionate commitment for caring enough to change lives." Suquet, Chairman, President and CEO of Pan-American Life Insurance Group, will be honored at this year's Victory Luncheon.

As the needs of New Orleans' communities evolve, so does United Way, creating new partnerships and collaboratives, and coordinating new funding opportunities.

For more information about the United Way Campaign, coming events, or general information, visit us online at [www@unitedwaynola.org](http://www@unitedwaynola.org)

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