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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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United Way of St. Lucie County To Invest \$1.3 Million in Community Programs

FORT PIERCE, FL – United Way of St. Lucie County will be investing \$1,366,931 this year in programs and services that advance the common good by creating opportunities for a better life for all in our community. The funds will be distributed to programs that support youth, families, people in crisis, the vulnerable and aging populations.

“It brings an end to a long and careful process”, stated Allocations Panel Chair Marge Riley. “This year we had 70 local volunteers reviewing program applications, interviewing agency representatives, and deliberating over the 60 programs submitted by 35 local agencies.” In total, 48 programs under 33 local non-profit agencies were recommended for funding. The recommendations of the volunteer review panels were presented and funds were approved for distribution by the United Way Board of Directors at its June 3rd meeting.

Included in the approved allocation was \$58,000 in Stanich grant funds. The Stanich grant, a one-time grant for projects impacting children and youth in St. Lucie County, was made possible by a generous donor who made a bequest to the United Way for the community. A total of ten (10) Stanich grants will be used to fund parenting classes, college summer session immersion for high school students, and capital renovations to facilities.

The volunteers who dedicated their time and expertise to participate in this year’s process had their work cut out for them. “With requests totaling more than the amount of money available for funding, we have to make sure that the United Way contributions are distributed to programs that are making the most impact on people in need in our community”, continued Riley. “The level of scrutiny during the allocations process is intense but necessary given the economic conditions that are affecting everyone in our community.” This year, the total requested amount from local agencies was \$1,868,246- 10% higher than last year’s requests.

The United Way of St. Lucie County is committed to advancing the common good by investing in programs and services that make a positive impact in the following areas:

GENERAL PROGRAM FUNDING & STANICH GRANTS

STRENGTHENING AND SUPPORTING FAMILIES- \$110,500

HEALTH, SAFETY AND CRISIS INTERVENTION- \$266,000

SPECIAL NEEDS POPULATION – ELDERLY & DISABLED- \$259,500

HELPING CHILDREN & YOUTH SUCCEED- \$274,000*

TOTAL: \$910,000

*This total includes the \$58,000 distributed through the Stanich Grants

Focusing on creating long-lasting solutions by addressing the underlying causes of problems has helped United Way of St. Lucie County become a leader in facilitating community solutions to the area's priority health and human services needs.

"It takes everyone in the community working together to create a brighter future" added United Way CEO Karen Knapp. "By partnering with volunteers, local agencies, government and businesses, we have the ability to bring about changes with benefits that ripple out to the community as a whole."

In addition to distributions allocated on Tuesday, designations chosen by individual donors totaling \$293,869 will be given to other United Ways and agencies located both in and outside our area of service.

The distribution breakdown, approved by the United Way Board of Directors:

General Program Funding	\$852,000	}	\$910,000
Stanich Grants	\$58,000		
Community Service	\$163,062		
Designations (Donor's Choice)	<u>\$293,869</u>		
TOTAL	\$1,366,931		

For more information on how to become one of the thousands of people who volunteer and invest in the community, please call 772-464-5300 or visit our website at www.unitedwayslc.org.

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