

301 South Brevard Street
Charlotte, NC 28202
704-372-7170
www.uwcentralcarolinas.org

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Media Contact: Michael Griggs
mgriggs@uwcentralcarolinas.org
W: 704-664-2284

**UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL CAROLINAS WILL DISTRIBUTE \$900,000 TO
SUPPORT HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES IN THE MOORESVILLE – LAKE NORMAN AREA**

(Charlotte, NC) – This morning the Regional Board of Directors of United Way of Central Carolinas' approved the distribution of \$11,976,000 from its Community Care Fund to support 197 programs in Anson, Cabarrus, Mecklenburg and Union Counties and the Mooresville-Lake Norman area. In addition, United Way will distribute \$2,134,397 in donor designations to agencies, for a total distribution of \$14,110,396 to support health and human services in United Way's service area. This total is a 35% decrease from last year.

United Way supports a broad range of local health and human service agency programs to help meet important community needs. These programs address both short and long-term needs of individuals and families in our community and are programs that provide the building blocks for a good life for all.

United Way of Central Carolinas will allocate \$900,000 to Mooresville - Lake Norman member agencies. In total, local community and company donations to United Way of Central Carolinas will cumulatively fund 85% of Mooresville-Lake Norman agencies requested needs for their programs in 2009-1010. Funding will be disbursed in the following areas:

- **Education** - \$62,914 will fund 5 programs that help children, youth and adults achieve their potential.
- **Income** - \$464,862 will fund 13 programs that promote financial stability and independence.
- **Health** - \$372,224 will go to agencies that improve people's health.

This year, agencies and programs addressing crisis situations due to the current economic downturn were given the highest priority. These include basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter and health/mental health needs.

QUOTES

On the 2009-10 allocations:

"Meeting the needs of the crisis environment we are in, while maintaining a focus on advocacy and future planning and prevention was one of the challenges that we faced this year. Because of the generous donations, we were able to meet the needs of our community. *Stacey M. Anderson, Chair of the Mooresville-Lake Norman Crisis and Disaster Council*

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“The public should know how important the United Way is to many of the agencies in the Mooresville-Lake Norman area. Some are large organizations while others are quite small. They rely heavily on the funds from United Way. In the end, it is volunteers within the community making a difference, listening to the agency needs, evaluating agency results and addressing crisis situations.” *Denis Bilodeau, Chair of the Mooresville - Lake Norman Community Investment Committee*

“Our funds all stay in our community and a lot of volunteers spend a lot of time ensuring the contributions that hard working people make to United Way are used in the best manner possible. Before I volunteered to be a part of this process, I didn't know how the process for giving specific amounts of money to specific agencies worked. I also didn't know a lot about the United Way agencies working in my community. What I learned is that there are a tremendous number of dedicated, hard working professionals and volunteers working in a variety of types of agencies - for large well known agencies and for tiny, not typically recognized agencies. Most of these professionals do amazing things with tiny amounts of money and are grateful for the funds they receive from the United Way. For those who were unhappy with the politics surrounding the United Way recently, please know that down at the "street" level, where individuals receive help for a variety of needs, good things are happening!” *Susan Violette, Chair of the Mooresville-Lake Norman Family and Youth Council*

Over 38 volunteers throughout the Mooresville - Lake Norman area spent over 1,330 hours reviewing the 19 agencies and 31 programs supported by contributions to the Community Care Fund. They studied and identified the community's most pressing needs. Programs funded through this volunteer led “Citizen Review Process” (CRP) represent the largest network of nonprofit services in our region.

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About United Way of Central Carolinas

United Way of Central Carolinas works to advance the common good, creating opportunities for a better life for all by focusing on the three key building blocks of education, income and health. The United Way movement creates long lasting community change by addressing the underlying causes of problems that enable progress in these areas in our five-county service region of Anson, Cabarrus, Mecklenburg and Union counties and the Mooresville-Lake Norman area. LIVE UNITED is a call to action for everyone to become part of the change. For more information about United Way of Central Carolinas, please visit www.uwcentralcarolinas.org