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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 1st, 2010

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 \$1,310,440 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 used to support education, income and health programs and United Way initiatives throughout St Lucie County.

“This year’s decisions were difficult for everyone”, stated Board Member and Community Investment Panel Co-Chair Marge Riley. “Our volunteers were given the task of reviewing program applications knowing that funds were limited.” In total, 40 programs from 35 local non-profit agencies were recommended for funding. The recommendations of the volunteer review panels were presented and funds approved for distribution by the United Way Board of Directors at their June 8th meeting.

The volunteers who dedicated their time and expertise to participate in this year’s process had to make some tough decisions. “With requests totaling more than the amount of money available for funding, we have to ensure the United Way contributions are distributed to programs making the most impact on people in need in our community”, continued Riley.

United Way is committed to creating a brighter future in St. Lucie County by investing in programs and services that make a positive impact in the following areas:

<u>GENERAL PROGRAM FUNDING</u>	
EDUCATION	\$249,294
INCOME	\$211,242
HEALTH	\$190,500
TOTAL:	\$651,036

Focusing on creating long-lasting solutions by addressing the underlying causes of unacceptable community conditions 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.

In addition, the board approved supporting United Way initiatives, such as School Supplies for Students, 2-1-1 of Palm Beach and the Treasure Coast, Volunteer St. Lucie, and the new Health Access Network (HANDS) of St. Lucie health clinic. Also, donors’ designated gifts totaled \$232,754.

The Stanich grant, a one-time grant for projects impacting children and youth in St. Lucie County, is made possible by a generous donor who made a bequest to the United Way for the community. This year's focus was on children's dental issues and the 2 grants awarded to the Health Access Network Delivery System (HANDS) and the Early Learning Coalition will provide dental screenings, dental education, and emergency dental care for children.

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

General Program Funding	\$651,036
United Way Initiatives & Direct Service	\$165,360
Community Service	\$213,143
Stanich Grant	\$48,147
Designations (Donor's Choice)	<u>\$232,754</u>
TOTAL	\$1,310,440

United Way of St. Lucie County is encouraging people in the community to LIVE UNITED by giving to the annual campaign, helping spread the word about programs and services that help people in need, and volunteering their time and talent to a local cause. For more information on how you can LIVE UNITED and help create a brighter future for those in need in our community, please call Cris Adams at 772-464-5300 or visit our website at www.unitedwayslc.org.

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