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For Immediate Release



United Way Enlists Secret Agents to Thank Leadership Givers and Recognize Companies Leading the Way

(Kansas City, MO)---From outside appearances it could have been a scene from a 007 James Bond movie. Fast cars, pretty women and gentlemen with English accents, sipping martinis, dressed in tuxedos, clearly ready for action. Who are the villains and who were the heroes and secret agents? Only a member of her majesty's secret service could tell for sure. The stage was set for what promised to be a memorable evening for more than 700 Leadership contributors of United Way.

The Gala was one of the first public events in the new Grand Ballroom of the Kansas City Convention Center. The evening surrounding United Way's Third Annual Leadership Recognition dinner buzzed with an air of suspense and excitement, including "Bond girls" and dashing young men dressed in tuxedos mingling among the crowd. Off to the side, several luxury sports cars similar to those driven by 007 in some of his most memorable movies, added to the ambiance of the evening.

While the 007 theme was exciting the evening's goal wasn't exposing double agents, recovering the crown jewels or eliminating arch enemies of world peace; it was to recognize the role Kansas City area companies and individuals are playing in improving people's lives. Those attending the Gala heard from six men and women who overcame adversity with the help of United Way funded programs, and who now lead fulfilling, productive lives. Their stories were but a small sampling of the hundreds-of-thousands of people in the Kansas City area touched by United Way funded programs every year.

The special evening was an opportunity to thank people for giving and to recognize those, who through their generosity are leading the way. Six companies received awards for their Leadership Giving to United Way. They were:

Applying best practices to obtain the highest percent of employees donating at the Leadership Circle level for 2006

- 1000 or more employees---JE Dunn Construction Company
- 250-999 employees-----KPMG
- Up to 249 employees-----MarketSphere Consulting

Applying best practices to obtain the highest dollar increase through Leadership Circle givers for 2006

- 1000 or more employees---Embarq
- 250-9999 employees-----Lockton Companies, LLC
- Up to 249 employees-----Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences

For additional information, contact:

Ron Howard
United Way
(816) 559-4644