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**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **UNITED WAY HOLDS AWARDS CELEBRATION**

“Sixties Flower Power” highlighted the United Way of the Concho Valley’s annual awards luncheon held at the McNease Convention Center, with Legend Jewelers proprietor Mark Priest as the emcee.

“The theme for the 2009 Annual United Way Campaign was ‘stand by me’ and throughout the campaign we saw many examples of how residents in the Concho Valley took the message to heart,” said Shelley Burnett, 2009 Campaign Chair. The 2009 United Way of the Concho Valley’s Community Campaign raised \$2,071,829 surpassing its goal of \$2 million by \$71,829. “The United Way is extremely grateful to every company and every individual that contributed and worked to ensure our success. We are so pleased to be able to honor them today,” said Burnett. Funds raised will help support 20 local program providers.

Chairman’s Circle Awards, which are given to companies with donations of \$100,000 or more were presented to the City of San Angelo, Combined Federal Campaign, Ethicon, Inc. and Shannon Health System.

Hall of Fame Awards which recognize top companies with the largest dollar increases for their campaigns were presented to San Angelo Community Medical Center, San Angelo Banking Center, H.E.B., City of San Angelo, Rio Concho, Inc., Oliver, Rainey & Wojtek, LLP, Coca-Cola Bottling Company, A-B Distributing and Tom Green County. These entities increased their campaigns by a combined total of \$40,124.

Employee Team Awards which are given to companies which employ creative strategies in order to achieve successful campaigns, were presented to 1<sup>st</sup> Community Federal Credit Union, AEP-Texas, Atmos Energy, City of San Angelo, Ethicon, Inc., First Financial Bank, MHMR of the Concho Valley, San Angelo Community Medical Center, San Angelo Standard-Times, Shannon Clinic, Shannon Medical Center, Texas State Bank and Tom Green County.

New Beginnings Awards were presented to companies which ran a first time campaign. They were awarded to CarTown Hyundai and DCP Midstream.

Individual awards were also presented during the event. The Walton Foster Excellence in Media Award was presented to KLST/KSAN's Creative Services Department and to David Tillery of Mind Time Communications. Ambassadors' Roundtable Awards which are presented to individuals, who have helped the United Way in extraordinary ways were given to Jeremy Bartz, Hirschfeld Steel; Shelley Burnett, Atmos Energy; Mike Beck, Ethicon, Inc.; Jon Herron, US Customs; Tim Vasquez, City of San Angelo Police Chief and Anthony Wilson, City of San Angelo Civic Events.

The 2009 Spirit of Caring Award was presented to Ed Lopez, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Clubs of San Angelo. Lopez's commitment and passion for the community knows no boundaries. He has been a United Way Campaign speaker for a number of years, is also a local minister and you can even find him selling tickets at football games.

The 2010 United Way Campaign theme is "Be There for Your Community." For the first time ever, four individuals will jointly share the duties of Campaign Chair. They are Colonel Charlie Powell, who was the 1985 Campaign Chair and the first to ever raise over \$1,000,000; Fred Key, President of Foster Communications, who served as the Campaign Chair in 2001 and raised \$2,496,162 which was the highest amount of money raised in the history of the United Way; Jay Michaels, Vice President/General Manager of Foster Communications, who served as Campaign Chair in 2003 and raised a total of \$2,475,436 and last year's Campaign Chair Shelley Burnett, who raised \$2,071,829. The four of them together have raised a total of \$8,046,371 for the United Way.

"We are constantly searching for new and innovative approaches to raising more funds in the campaign in order to help more people in our community. We think a team approach to the duties of campaign chair will allow us to reach out to more individuals and achieve ultimate results during the 2010 Campaign," said Patti Breitreiter, United Way President & CEO.

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