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NEWS RELEASE

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United Ways Pass Resolutions to Pursue Consolidation

ROCK COUNTY – Wednesday, January 18, 2012 – Stateline United Way and United Way of North Rock County (UWNRC) announced today that after careful consideration, their boards of directors passed resolutions to pursue a consolidation that will streamline the United Way system in the region for maximum efficiency, allowing more donor dollars to be spent directly on improving lives and strengthening communities. The Executive Committee of each of the boards will work together to finalize the plan for the consolidation, which will then be submitted to the respective boards for final approval.

“This is a historic moment,” said Lynn Gardinier, UWNRC board chair. “As synergy thrives between United Way of North Rock County and Stateline United Way, it makes sense to combine our strengths and resources to deliver the greatest impact to our communities.”

Geoff Rand, Stateline United Way board chair said, “United Way is constantly evolving and exploring ways to be more strategic and deliberate in how we work. Restructuring will lower our costs, resulting in more funding available for the programs that build strong individuals, healthy children and thriving families.”

A transitional strategy will be orchestrated throughout 2012, centralizing all support staff functions to optimize best practices, increase operational efficiency and eliminate duplication. Implementation is expected to be complete by January 1, 2013, when United Way of North Rock County and Stateline will unify to create a new organization. Steve Kinkade will serve as president of the new organization, bringing 40 years of United Way leadership experience to provide trusted continuity for program partners and donors. Office location and staffing determinations have not yet been made. A marketing subcommittee has been assembled to generate ideas and seek community input for the name of the united organization.

According to the board chairs, plans for parallel 2012 campaigns are well underway and will kick off in the fall as usual. The allocation of funds will remain as it always has been – local volunteers serving as responsible stewards, determining the best use of donors’ dollars based on community needs and program outcomes.

“By working together as one community, we have the ability to leverage ideas and resources,” said Diane Hendricks, co-chair of the Rock County 5.0 Advisory Board and chairwoman of ABC Supply Company. “A consolidated United Way will strengthen existing relationships and foster a culture of innovative collaboration.”

“This unification makes United Way an even better choice for companies and individuals who want to give back to their communities,” said Mark Bush, Data Dimensions chairman. “Improved efficiency means United Way donor contributions will make more of an impact and create long-lasting changes.”

“As a program partner of both United Way of North Rock County and Stateline United Way, it is inspiring to see such a large scale demonstration of what it means to live united,” said Lisa Furseth, executive director of Community Action, Inc. “This reorganization will make the funding request process more effective and may foster greater advocacy and interaction among local non-profits.”

“The volunteer and professional leaders of the United Way of North Rock County and Stateline United Way are to be congratulated on creating a new system that is responsive to the needs of individual and corporate investors,” said Brian A. Gallagher, president and CEO of United Way of America. “This change will align this region with the consolidation movement nationally, enabling United Way to become the leading community impact organization in southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois.”

The United Way history is built on trust, integrity and measurable community impact. When you choose to contribute to the United Way, you provide for 95 programs, across 49 agencies, throughout Rock County and the Stateline area.

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