United Way of the
Greater Clarksville Region
serving Montgomery, Houston, and Stewart Counties, and the Fort Campbell Area.

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MEDIA RELEASE

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LOCAL BUSINESS AND VOLUNTEERS HONORED BY UNITED WAY

Last evening, the United Way of the Greater Clarksville Region held its 2008 Annual Membership Meeting and Awards Ceremony at the Clarksville Country Club.

The evening's festivities included dinner, elections for new board members and officers. Newly elected members of the board include Mr. Brian Grasty of Regions Bank, representing Stewart County and Mr. Geoff Livingston of Green Bank.

The event is held each year to recognize and honor businesses and individuals in the community for their involvement and support of the organization's work in Montgomery, Houston, and Stewart Counties and the Fort Campbell Area. The evening's festivities included dinner, entertainment by Xample, and the annual meeting of the membership to elect officers and board members for 2008-2009. In accordance with the By-Laws, any individual who contributed $100 or more to United Way this past year was eligible to vote during the membership meeting.

The very special group of young individuals from the Abundant Life Outreach Center who perform as Xample and operate R.E.A.L. Media Studios produced this year's United Way campaign video, and the United Way was pleased to be able to spotlight Xample's singing talents at this year's Annual Meeting.

The highlight of the evening, as always, was the presentation of campaign awards, including the prestigious Ben C. Parks Award.

Established in 1990, the Ben C. Parks Award recognizes the company or business that has conducted the top overall in-house campaign. The winner is selected by the volunteers serving on the campaign cabinet based on several criteria, including the percentage of employee giving potential achieved, increase in giving over the last year, number of leadership donors, as well as other factors. The award was named in honor of Mr. Ben C. Parks, who faithfully demonstrated his full support of the mission of our United Way and its member agencies. This year, seven companies were nominated for this prestigious award.

This year, seven companies were nominated for the prestigious Award: Bridgestone Metalpha, U.S.A, F&M Bank, Heritage Bank, Jack B. Turner & Associates, Planters Bank, Rufus Johnson Associates, and The Trane Company. After careful deliberation, Jack B. Turner & Associates was named the Ben C. Parks Award winner for 2007.

A number of other awards to honor outstanding achievements of businesses, agencies, and volunteers were also presented during the event.

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The Ambassador's Award recognizes the CEO or company president or manager who has demonstrated an individual commitment to the local United Way and set an example of leadership for his or her employees by promoting support and involvement with their United Way, both in the workplace and in the community. Mr. Jeff Perry of Bridgestone Metalpha, U.S.A. was honored with the presentation of this year's Ambassador's Award.

The Directors' Award honors an agency that most fully exemplifies the qualities of a partner agency. Judged each year by the members of the United Way Board of Directors, the honor is measured by several criteria, including performance and commitment to better and more effectively serve our community, its support and promotion of the United Way and its partnership, and its faithfulness in maintaining the high standards required of partner agencies and in fulfilling its contractual commitment with the United Way.

Three agencies were in the running for this year's Directors' Award: Ajax Turner Senior Citizen's Center, the Crisis Intervention Center, and Progressive Directions, Inc. The agency selected as the recipient of this year's Directors' Award was Progressive Directions, Inc.

The Campaigning toward Potential Award recognizes the business, company, or agency that achieved the highest percentage of employee giving potential during the campaign year. This year this achievement award goes to the employees of the Adult Literacy Council, whose giving for the 2007-2008 campaign totaled an outstanding rate of 491% of their giving potential.

The outstanding performance of volunteers serving on the Campaign Cabinet and as coordinators who conduct the United Way Campaign within their company workplace were also recognized with presentations of the "Above and Beyond" Award. This award is based on several factors, including consistent attendance and participation at meetings and events, timeliness in fulfilling their responsibility, as well as criteria that set them apart, such as putting forth extra effort and creating and implementing special initiatives, as well as general enthusiasm in performing their role.

For their performance during the 2007-2008 Campaign the following were selected as recipients of the "Above and Beyond" Award; Bruce Jobe of Clarksville-Montgomery County Public School System; Monika King of Bridgestone Metalpha, U.S.A.; Ricky Edwards of Bridgestone Metalpha, U.S.A.; Dianne Todd of Bridgestone Metalpha, U.S.A.; Kathleen Hayes of James Corlew Chevrolet; Debbie Bates; Lesa Goder of Premier Medical Group; Janice Shelton of Clarksville Dental Center; Rita Berman of Planters Bank; Keith Jackson of The Trane Company; Lisa McClain of Montgomery County Government, and Kimberly Fields of Montgomery County Government.

The United Way of the Greater Clarksville Region and their Partner Agencies are thankful to all who volunteer and support the local non-profit agencies. It is not the dollars earned, but the lives that are changed. Together, as a community, we can make a difference.

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