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**ROCKLAND UNITED WAY RAISED \$1.2 MILLION IN 2001-02;
TOP DONORS PRAISED FOR FUNDING CHARITABLE EFFORTS**

New City, NY, June 4, 2002 – Rockland County celebrated today as this year’s successful local United Way fundraising efforts were announced, and the county’s top corporate, retail and agency donors and their employees were honored today.

United Way of Rockland County raised \$1.2 million in 2001-2002 through its annual campaign as well as through its fund-raising effort to benefit the victims of 9/11, the chairperson of the organization’s Board of Directors told a breakfast meeting today hosted by Jawonio, Inc., one of the United Way-funded agencies, at its Jawonio Tech facility in Spring Valley.

Dr. Mary Ritchey, Vice President of Vaccines R&D Quality Assurance at Wyeth in Pearl River, told the gathering that more than \$900,000 of that sum was raised to support Member Agencies’ programs (\$660,000 in program support and “Vision Grants” and approximately \$250,000 in “in-kind” gifts such as Dave & Busters’ power cards given to all of the donors this year & Gateway’s donation of furniture to Rockland day care centers.) The remaining \$300,000+ of the total was raised through the United Way of Rockland County for the local disaster relief fund that helped those in need as a result of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center last year.

Ritchey said, “Rockland County is well-known for its generosity of spirit, but nowhere is that shown better than when it comes to financial support of the United Way. The companies donate in a variety of

ways through corporate grants, employee campaigns and “in-kind” gifts. All are counted toward the goal and all are gratefully acknowledged with appreciation.”

Rockland United Way funds programs of 25 human service agencies whose only mission is to make the community a better place to live by assisting seniors, caring for children and youth, strengthening families, assisting people in crisis, increasing self-sufficiency for people with disabilities, and promoting health and healing. Six other agencies were given vision grants this year, to pursue a one-time project that would make an impact by increasing a targeted populations’ ability to become more self sufficient.

The top donors were: Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc.; Wyeth; Verizon; County of Rockland; Mirant New York, Inc.; Pfizer, Provident Bank; Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation; IBM; Chromalloy New York; Stop and Shop Supermarkets, Avon Products, Inc.; Union State Bank; Bank of New York; Filene’s; The Journal News; Macy’s, M & T Bank, Merrill Lynch, Price Costco; Pfizer; Head Start of Rockland, Dave & Busters’ and Minigrip ITW.

Accepting the award for O&R as the top United Way fundraising company, O&R’s Vice President – Customer Service James O’Brien said, “These United Way human service agencies, like Jawonio that so graciously hosts us today, enhance and enrich a healthy community. They prove every day through their countless acts of kindness, counsel and support that Rockland’s people are compassionate, committed and concerned.”

Howard Phillips, the 2001-2002 Rockland United Way Campaign Chairman and Supervisor of the Town of Haverstraw, said, "This is very much a local project. That money doesn't come from anyone but us and it doesn't go anywhere but to help those of us in need. It's all about neighbors helping neighbors."

Naomi Adler, United Way of Rockland County's President, said, "Over 15,000 people donated to the United Way of Rockland County this year. Our largest group of donors are from the backbone of our campaign – our corporate partners. In an era of diminishing resources and corporate belt-tightening, we are so grateful that these businesses continue to organize campaigns, enlist contributors, and help us distribute this money to a variety of exceptional agencies to make a maximum impact in Rockland."

Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc., as it has for many years, led this year's United Way of Rockland County's campaign by combining a dynamic fund-raising drive partnership between the Company and its bargaining unit, IBEW Local 503, with a dollar-for-dollar, employee-shareholder match to raise \$156,435.

The O&R-IBEW Local 503 fund-raising drive raised \$78,217 from among O&R's current employees and its retirees. The Company matched that amount from the shareholder funds of Consolidated Edison, Inc., O&R's parent company. That figure represents an 18 percent increase over last year's O&R amount and an increase in employee participation from 66 percent to 71 percent, both the largest single-year percentage increases over the past 10 years.

O&R's O'Brien said, "A community that takes care of its own is certainly a more attractive place for drawing new business and new residents, and a better place in which to keep a business."

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