



For Immediate Release

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Victoria County United Way Announces \$820,000 Raised in 2009 Campaign

Victoria, Texas (February 8, 2010) – Despite the current recession, layoffs, salary freezes and record unemployment, the Victoria County United Way raised \$820,000 during its 2009 community campaign. “We consider this to be a tremendous community victory,” said Campaign Co-Chair Kelly Park of First Victoria National Bank. “The odds were against us, but we raised significant sums of money given the current economic climate.”

True to form, several companies and their employees raised record amounts:

- H.E.B. – 62% increase
- DeTar HealthCare Systems – 479% increase (\$22,451 new dollars)
- South Texas Electric Co-Op – 63% increase
- First Victoria National Bank – a record \$80,970, taking over the number one spot in the county
- Citizens Medical Center – 4% increase
- INEOS – 49% increase
- U.P.S. – 8% increase
- A.E.P. – 9% increase

Clifford Grimes, Executive Director of Victoria County United Way, noted that in presentations he has made to employee groups across the county, one question was often asked: how can we help our colleagues who have been laid off? “I pointed out the many ways United Way funded programs are assisting individuals to cope with the challenges before them and to find long-term solutions that benefit them and their families,” said Grimes. Victoria County efforts to assist individuals in the area include:

- 15,244 seniors who participated in stimulating activities, fellowship and received hot, nutritious meals at Victoria County Senior Citizens Center.
- Communities In Schools providing services to 1,058 at-risk youth in grades 4-12 to reduce dropout rates by concentrating on attendance, academics and behavior. 85% of the youth graduated or had improvements in the above concentration areas.
- Perpetual Help Home providing a safe home for 74 women and 47 children. 92% of the women went on to obtain employment and are rebuilding their lives.
- Tender Loving Care, providing quality childcare to 127 special needs children, children under protective service, or families in crisis and in desperate need of assistance with childcare.

“We are grateful to the dedicated men and women of Victoria County who so faithfully gave of their time, talents and resources to the Victoria County United Way, and who choose to make a profound difference in individual lives and the quality of life we all enjoy,” said James Clifton of Citizens Medical Center and Campaign Co-Chair.

Victoria County United Way is now transitioning to the review of agency grant proposals for the 2010 calendar year. “The needs in our community are great and the challenges are many. The good news is clear: as a result of the many gifts to our United Way, we are able to partner with local non-profit agencies that are addressing the many challenges we face as a community. You are assisting thousands of individuals who need help,” said Gary Worsham of Wells Fargo, Chair of the Community Investment Committee.

If you have not given, it's not too late; donations are still being accepted. You can give online at www.unitedwayvictoria.org, mail your donation, or call the United Way office and a representative will pick it up (please note "Attention: Clifford Grimes" on all donations for pick up). One final appeal letter will be mailed this week to companies that have yet to respond. Every gift counts. Please give, and help Victoria County United Way help our community.

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*Victoria County United Way creates opportunities for everyone to become involved by focusing on the building blocks of a good life: **Education**, helping individuals achieve their potential; **Income**, helping families become financially stable and independent; **Health**, improving people's health. We invite you to be a part of change. United, we can inspire hope and create opportunities for a better tomorrow. Please contact Victoria County United Way at 361.578.3561 or visit online at www.unitedwayvictoria.org.*