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For Immediate Release

## **United Way Board, Volunteers Make Investment in Local Impact Areas**

This week, the United Way of Greater Augusta completed the work required to reinvest \$436,000 raised in this community back into agencies and programs that are making a significant impact on our friends and neighbors. \$136,000 of this investment comes as direct designations from donors. The remaining \$300,000 is distributed by the Board of Directors to programs which demonstrate an ability to meet a community need.

At the conclusion of a comprehensive process which relies heavily on the help of citizen volunteer reviewers, the Board of Directors awarded funding to 18 local programs, each able to document impact in the areas of household financial stability, mental health, aging, or early childhood development.

For the 2017-18 Awards Cycle, Citizen Investment Review Team members reviewed funding applications and participated in agency site visits. These volunteers made funding recommendations to the United Way Board of Directors for the programs that they reviewed using local impact data and United Way priority guidelines.

Program funding is in direct dollars to local programs and services. The Citizen Investment Review Team and the Board Awards Team worked together using an Impact Model to see that donor funds are directed to community needs and programs that have measurable and sustainable outcomes.

While requests for funding surpasses available dollars this year, agencies were asked to speak to whether partial funding of their request was a feasible option. While the majority of applications were at least partially funded, not every request was able to be financially supported this year. In these cases, The United Way continues to offer executive coaching partnerships, networking and collaborative programming coordination, smaller grant opportunities over the course of the fiscal year, and nonprofit education workshops to help support partner agencies.

United Way will celebrate this investment of funding, as well as recognize the organizations, individuals, and companies that help contribute to community change at the Annual Awards Celebration on June 7<sup>th</sup> at the Frontier Culture Museum in Staunton.

Although the Community Impact Grant application period is now closed, United Way of Greater Augusta offers a Community Contribution Grant throughout the year as funding is available. These year-round grants are designed to help smaller-scale projects with immediate local impact and minimizes the application and reporting burden.

For more information regarding the 2017-2018 Grant Award funding or the United Way of Greater Augusta, please contact Jeff Miracle at [jeff.miracle@unitedway.org](mailto:jeff.miracle@unitedway.org) or by calling 540- 885-1229. Also, please visit our web site at [www.unitedwayga.org](http://www.unitedwayga.org).

The awards funding is as follows:

Organization	Program
Blue Ridge Legal Services, Inc.	Legal Assistance to Low-Income Households In Crisis
CASA for Children	Advocacy for Abused and Neglected Children
Community Child Care, Inc.	Community Scholarships
Fairfield Center	Conflict Resolution
Crossroads to Brain Injury Recovery	Circles of Support
Daily Living Center	Fee Assistance Program
Learn English and Reading Now, Inc.	Literacy Tutoring For Adults
Mental Health America of Augusta	Community Awareness Leads to Early Detection/Intervention
Project GROWS	Expanding Healthy Food Production and Access
Renewing Homes of Greater Augusta	Critical Home Repairs
Talking Book Center	Talking Books
Staunton Creative Community Fund	Virginia Individual Development Accounts
United Way of Greater Augusta	Dolly Parton Imagination Library
United Way of Greater Augusta	Client Referral and Resource Navigation
Valley Area Community Support, Inc.	Affordable Housing for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities, Mental Illness & Substance Abuse Recovery Issues
Valley Children's Advocacy Center	Child Forensic Interviewing Services
Valley Hope Counseling Center	Low-fee counseling
Valley Program for Aging Services	Meals on Wheels

**About United Way of Greater Augusta**

United Way of Greater Augusta is part of a national network of more than 1,300 locally governed organizations that work to create lasting positive changes in communities and people's lives. Building on more than a century of service as the nation's preeminent community-based fundraiser, United Way engages the community to identify the underlying causes of the most significant local issues, develops strategies and pulls together financial and human resources to address them, and measures the results. United Way of Greater Augusta tackle issues based on local needs. Common focus areas include helping children and youth succeed, improving access to health care, promoting self-sufficiency, and strengthening families. For more information about United Way of Greater Augusta, please visit: [www.unitedwayga.org](http://www.unitedwayga.org).