



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

Pamela Josey Pope
Director of Resource Development
Catawba County United Way
828-327-6851
ppope@ccunitedway.com

Winners announced at Spirit Awards Donor Event

Hickory, NC – Rain did not keep the faithful Catawba County United Way donors away from the Spirit Awards and Annual Meeting event held April 19th at the Catawba Country Club. More than 150 were in attendance as the United Way celebrated, reflected and thanked individual donors, retirees, schools, and corporate leaders for their support during the 2016 campaign.

The event began with a video reflecting moments from the past year. Dr. Aron Gabriel, Asst. Superintendent for Newton-Conover Schools and CCUW Board Member led the group in a moment of reflection. Debra Bechtel, County Attorney and CCUW Board President welcomed the attendees and spoke about the power of the collective efforts in our community to improve education, financial stability and health. Bechtel also recognized CCUW Board Members, staff and special guests.

Jennie Connor, Executive Director of the CCUW, presented information on the impact of 2-1-1 and announced that CCUW would be providing detailed information to the community on the new Self-Sufficiency Standard prepared for our community through United Way North Carolina. The reports were authored by Dr. Diana Pearce of the University of Washington and produced by the Center for Women's Welfare at the University of Washington. They were made possible by funding and support from the United Way of North Carolina and GM OnStar Grant.

Connor recognized the current CCUW funded community partners. The community investment panels will meet April 25th and May 2nd to review new grant applications and make allocation recommendations to the CCUW Board. The current funded partners are: Adult Life Programs, AIDS Leadership Foothills-area Alliance (ALFA), Bethany After School All Stars, The Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club of Hickory, Meals on Wheels, Imagination Library , Project Esteem, The Catawba Valley Chapter American Red Cross, Children's Advocacy and Protection Center, Community Ridge Daycare, Council on Adolescents of Catawba County, Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministries, Exodus Homes, Family Guidance Center, The Salvation Army and Sipes Orchard Home.

Pamela Josey Pope, Director of Resource Development for CCUW, recognized the campaign cabinet for their involvement with the workplace campaign. Cabinet members help with the distribution of materials, make contacts for the campaign and also pick up packets once the workplace campaigns are complete. 2016 cabinet members include: Sandea Asherbraner, Century Furniture; Amanda Brasier, Frye Regional; Kelly Bruley, self-employed; Sammy Burnette, Pepsi; Telisia Cloninger, Community One Bank;



Charles Connor IV, First Security; Paul Foster, Catawba County Library; Sandi Fotheringham, Hickory Public Schools; Teresa Fry, Corning; Mary Furtado, Catawba County Government; Angi Houston, Lee Industries; Siobhan Loendorf, Catawba County Library; Linda Lutz, retiree from CVCC; Claudia Main, City of Hickory; Kristen Maynard, Newton-Conover City Schools; Josh McKinney, Peoples Bank; Dan Moore, Catawba County Schools; Mary Puett, Century Furniture; Teresa Quine, Century Furniture; Lena Ramsey, Corning; Betty Strickland, B & M Promotional Products; Mike Webb, Century Furniture; Suzanne White, Catawba County Library; Bernie Whitmer, retiree from Bank of Granite; Frank Williams, Martin Starnes CPA; and Lori Wray, Catawba County Government.

Pope presented awards to three schools. There is a traveling plaque given annually to the winning schools. The winners are the following in the three categories: Elementary school awarded to Conover Special Education, Middle school awarded to Newton-Conover Middle and High school awarded to Discovery High. All three winners were from the Newton-Conover School system. The schools were rated based on employee participation and employee per capita giving. Schools from all three districts in Catawba County are eligible including Hickory City Schools, Newton-Conover City Schools and Catawba County schools.

Pope presented Community Impact awards to corporations that ran workplace campaigns. There were four divisions. Division 1 winner for 1 to 199 employees concluded in a tie between Martin Starnes & associates, CPA and Shuford Yarns. Division 2 winner for 200 to 499 was Duke Energy. Division 3 winner for 500 to 799 employees was Shurtape Technologies, LLC. Division 4 winner for 800 plus employees also concluded in a tie between Century Furniture and Catawba County Government. Award winners in these divisions were selected based on employee per capita, percentage of participation, volunteerism, engagement with United Way functions and events, participation on United Way committees and panels and where applicable corporate support.

A new prestigious award was presented. 72 years ago the Catawba County United Way began as the Community Chest Fund and War Fund. The name has changed a few times over the 72 years to keep up with our changing community. The meaning behind the Community Chest is still relevant today. The Community Chest is provided by the people for the people to benefit the community.

Shurtape Technologies, LLC was presented with the new award for their year-round involvement with United Way, their exceptional use of best practices for the workplace campaign, volunteerism and their impact through the United Way on the community.

Paramount Automotive and Benny Yount provided a car for display to promote the sixth year of the Paramount Automotive Fair Share Donor Car Giveaway. All fair share donors in Catawba County through the United Way will be entered in a weekly drawing. The finalists come together for a final event in December where each person will draw a key from a bag and attempt to start the car. The key that starts the car wins. The winner can choose between a Kia, Hyundai or Volkswagen.

The Catawba County United Way would like to thank all the donors to the 2016 campaign including corporations, schools, organizations, individual donors and retirees.

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About Catawba County United Way

Catawba County United Way's mission is to increase the organized capacity of people to help others by mobilizing the caring power of our community. For more information, contact Pamela Pope, Director of Resource Development, at 828-327-6851 or ppope@ccunitedway.com