



# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 21, 2009**

## **United Way of Southeast Mississippi holds annual meeting**

**Hattiesburg** – United Way of Southeast Mississippi raised over \$1.62 million during its fall 2008-spring 2009 community fund-raising campaign, surpassing its amount raised in the previous campaign. This announcement was made during the organization’s Annual Meeting and Thank You Banquet held Tuesday at the Jackie Dole Sherrill Community Center. The banquet is held each year to thank the companies and organizations which run employee giving campaigns to raise money for United Way of Southeast Mississippi and its 21 local partner agencies. This year the banquet coincided with National Volunteer Week, and the organization recognized and thanked their volunteers from the past year as well.

Although the amount raised was a bit short of the campaign goal of \$1.7 million, Campaign Chair Allen Anderson of Anderson Design Center was very pleased with the campaign results.

“I am very proud of this caring community of ours,” Anderson said. “It’s truly admirable to witness the generous spirit of the donors and volunteers who dug deep in these difficult times. On behalf of the thousands who will be helped by your donations, I thank you!”

At the meeting, special presentations were made to the ten organizations that had the largest campaign results. Hattiesburg Clinic employees took top honors for the first time for having the year’s largest campaign total – \$122,639. Other “Top Ten” campaigns were Forrest General Hospital, The University of Southern Mississippi, Leaf River Cellulose, Hattiesburg Public Schools, Regions, Wesley Medical Center, BancorpSouth, Zeon Chemicals and Mississippi Power.

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United Way announces campaign total

Rob Stultz of Forrest General Hospital received the highest volunteer honor, the President's Choice Spirit of United Way Award, for his years of service on United Way's board of directors. Outgoing and incoming members of United Way of Southeast Mississippi's Board of Directors and members of the 2008-2009 Campaign Cabinet were also recognized.

For more information about United Way of Southeast Mississippi and its 21 partner agencies, visit [www.unitedwaysems.org](http://www.unitedwaysems.org).

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