



News Release
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United Way of America Honors Microsoft with Two 2006 Spirit of America® Summit Awards for Community Leadership and Employee Community Engagement

*-- America's Largest Charity Recognizes World's Largest Software Company for
Exceptional Volunteerism and Fundraising Efforts --*

PITTSBURGH (May 17, 2007) – United Way of America (UWA) tonight honored Microsoft with two 2006 Spirit of America® Summit Awards – the Community Leadership Award and the Employee Community Engagement Award – in recognition of its achievements in company-wide volunteerism and fundraising efforts. The Summit accolades represent two of four categories within the Spirit of America award program, which recognizes United Way National Corporate Leaders (NCLs) for exceptional work in the areas of community investment, engagement and leadership. The awards were presented at the 2007 United Way Staff Leaders Conference in Pittsburgh, Pa.

“Microsoft has long been a leader in software innovation, but its efforts are not limited to technology innovation. The company has redefined corporate giving by transcending traditional fundraising and seeking new strategies to serve the good of the communities it serves,” said UWA President and CEO Brian A. Gallagher. “I congratulate Microsoft’s widespread philanthropic efforts and its commitment to civic responsibility.”

UWA awarded Microsoft the Community Leadership Summit Award based on the company’s long-standing efforts to employ a strategic approach to raising company awareness about community issues, as demonstrated through the “Microsoft Community Investor’s Forum,” a year-round forum that encourages philanthropic financial contributions from long-standing donors. Microsoft encourages all of its employees to become a leadership donor as a means to give back to their community.

UWA presented Microsoft with the Employee Community Engagement Award for its exemplary employee engagement program that includes a generous dollar-for-dollar donation program that matches employee gifts up to \$12,000 per year per employee, and the creation of the “Microsoft Volunteer Connection,” a worldwide online system that helps employees find volunteer opportunities and track their activity.

“Thousands of Microsoft employees work passionately to connect people around the world through technology every day. This passion also exists at the community level, and [motivates](#) employees to invest their precious time and resources to improving communities they serve,” says Akhtar Badshah, Sr. Director of Community Affairs at Microsoft. “We applaud our employees for their individual charitable contributions and are honored that [United Way](#) has taken note of their great deeds.”

The Summit Award is part of the Spirit of America program, UWA’s highest national honor recognizing companies’ outstanding commitment to improving lives in local communities. Summit Award recipients were evaluated on their strength in promoting, volunteering, investing in, connecting with, advocating for, and partnering within their communities.

The Spirit of America program is open to any United Way National Corporate Leader (NCL). NCLs comprise leading national and global corporations that partner with United Way to deliver positive results. NCL peers and local United Ways participate in the evaluation of eligible companies.

In keeping with businesses’ renewed commitment to sustainable business practices, the 2007 Spirit of America awards (to be awarded in 2008) will feature a new corporate social responsibility component in addition to the traditional Spirit of America criteria. Categorical awards will evaluate the areas of: Sustainability/impact, Corporate, Workplace, and Volunteerism.

For more information on Spirit of America, NCL, and how corporations can get involved in their communities or partner with United Way of America, log on to unitedway.org/ncl/ or contact Amanda Ponzar at Amanda.ponzar@uwa.unitedway.org.

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About United Way of America

United Way of America is the national organization dedicated to leading the United Way movement in making a measurable impact in every community across America by focusing on the root causes of the most serious problems. The United Way movement includes over 1,300 community-based United Way organizations. Each is independent, separately incorporated, and governed by local volunteers. For more information about United Way of America, please visit: www.unitedway.org.

About Microsoft

Founded in 1975, Microsoft (NASDAQ "MSFT") is the worldwide leader in software, services and solutions that help people and businesses realize their full potential.

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