



News Release
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**United Way of America Honors Nationwide With Three
20th Annual Spirit of America® Summit Awards**

*– America’s Largest Charity Recognizes the Columbus, Ohio Insurance Company
For Exceptional Leadership, Fundraising Efforts and Volunteerism–*

PITTSBURGH (May 17, 2007) – United Way of America (UWA) tonight honored Nationwide with three 20th Annual Spirit of America® Summit Awards – in Employee Community Investment, Community Leadership and Employee Community Engagement – in recognition of its generous support of the United Way’s fundraising and volunteer initiatives within local communities. Nationwide received three of four categorical Spirit of America accolades, which recognize 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.

“Nationwide works tirelessly to improve the quality of life in communities it serves by challenging its associates to ‘Get Involved, Get Informed, and Make a Difference.’ It is impossible to overlook the emphasis Nationwide places on helping people,” said UWA President and CEO Brian A. Gallagher. “I applaud the company, its associates, agents and retirees on its unrelenting ability to mobilize and make a difference in communities across the country.”

UWA awarded Nationwide with the Employee Community Investment Summit Award for year-round events, communication and educational efforts on behalf of United Way resulting in higher levels of associate giving to communities. Through the Nationwide Foundation, associate, agent and retiree donations are matched dollar-for-dollar, and as a result, more than \$16 million was pledged to 751 local United Ways.

The Community Leadership Summit Award was granted to the company in recognition of major and leadership gifts, leadership events, and the participation of more than 200 of Nationwide's top executives serving on more than 300 local nonprofit boards across the country.

United Way also honored Nationwide with the Employee Community Engagement Award for its work in launching the *On Your Side* Volunteer Network. For every 25 hours of service contributed by Nationwide associates, nonprofit organizations receive a \$100 grant. Nationwide encourages all associates to participate in Community Care Days, and more than 1,000 associates volunteer their time to at United Way organizations each year. With a history of supporting K-12 education, Nationwide has taken on roles that range from mentoring to guest reading.

"Nationwide has a proud tradition of community support" said Connie Argus, director of Associate and Community Programs, Nationwide. "I am honored to accept the United Way's Summit Awards on behalf of all Nationwide associates, agents and retirees who give so generously of their time, talent and treasure to build and improve lives in their communities."

The Summit Awards are comprised of four categorical awards within the Spirit of America Award program that recognizes the exceptional work of corporate partners in the areas of community investment, engagement and leadership. Award recipients were evaluated and selected based 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), leading national and global corporations that partner with United Way to deliver positive results. Award recipients are judged by a panel of NCL peers and local United Ways.

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 (CSR) 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.