



News Release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE	Media Contact: Sheila Consaul 703.683.7871 sheila.consaul@unitedway.org
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United Way of America Recognizes Microsoft as Recipient of Summit Award

-- *Microsoft Honored at 2006 United Way Community Leaders Conference* --

Denver, CO (May 18, 2006) – United Way of America (UWA) today honored **Microsoft** as a Summit Award recipient of its coveted Spirit of America[®] Award program, recognizing the company's outstanding commitment to improve lives in local communities. UWA recognized **Microsoft** at its national *United Way Community Leaders Conference* in Denver, Colorado as a Summit Award recipient for Employee Community Engagement.

The Spirit of America[®] Awards program is United Way's highest tribute for corporate community involvement. Spirit of America and Summit Award recipients are judged on detailed criteria in four categories: Employee Community Investment, Corporate Community Investment, Community Leadership and Employee Community Engagement. The Spirit of America winner excels in each of these four categories. Summit Awards are presented to companies that excel in one or more of these areas.

Microsoft uses the Microsoft Volunteer Connection System, which allows employees to search and register for volunteer opportunities around the world, track the time they volunteer and in the U.S. submit their eligible time for a cash match of \$17/hour. This global volunteer management system helps employees find volunteer opportunities based on a variety of factors including their interests, skills, geographic location and organization. Microsoft's Volunteer Connection System is the company's primary means to connect employees to new volunteer opportunities, and since the formal launch in October 2005, more than 57,000 volunteer hours have been registered through this system.

“**Microsoft** has done an outstanding job promoting volunteerism among its employees and the contributions they’ve made speak for themselves,” said UWA President and CEO Brian A. Gallagher. “Together, **Microsoft** and United Way can focus resources on the most pressing problems in local communities to change people’s lives for the better.”

“For nearly three decades we have partnered with the United Way to support community organizations and to create opportunities to encourage employee involvement,” said Pamela Passman, **Microsoft’s** Vice President of Global Corporate Affairs and Board Member United Way of King County. “**Microsoft’s** greatest asset is our employees and it is their investment of more than \$35 million and thousands of volunteer hours that help to create vibrant communities. We are committed to matching donations of cash and time and creating the tools to encourage and sustain their community contributions.”

United Way of America awarded its 19th annual Spirit of America Award – its highest honor for a company’s outstanding commitment to local communities – to Principal Financial. In addition to the Spirit of America Award, United Way presented Summit Awards to:

- DaimlerChrysler – Corporate Community Investment and Employee Community Investment
- Duke Energy – Employee Community Engagement
- General Mills – Corporate Community Investment and Employee Community Engagement
- Kellogg’s – Employee Community Investment
- Kimberly-Clark – Corporate Community Investment
- Xcel Energy – Community Leadership

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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.