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## United Way of America Recognizes Xcel Energy as Recipient of Summit Award

-- *Xcel Energy Honored at 2006 United Way Community Leaders Conference* --

**Denver, CO** (May 18, 2006) – United Way of America (UWA) today honored **Xcel Energy** as a Summit Award recipient of its coveted Spirit of America<sup>®</sup> Award program, recognizing the company's outstanding commitment to improve lives in local communities. UWA recognized **Xcel Energy** at its national *United Way Community Leaders Conference* in Denver, Colorado as a Summit Award recipient for Corporate Leadership.

The Spirit of America<sup>®</sup> 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.

Xcel Energy's leadership cultivates an environment of community involvement to find out how the company can be better partners to the communities they serve. All employees can participate in year-round programs offered by local United Ways. Employees are introduced to Xcel Energy's commitment to community with a video presentation entitled, 'Connected to Community, and volunteerism is embedded in the culture in all 300 Xcel Energy locations spanning 10 states.

"**Xcel Energy** 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, **Xcel Energy** and United Way can focus resources on the most pressing problems in local communities to change people’s lives for the better.”

” I am very proud of our employees and retirees,” said Xcel Energy Chairman, President and CEO Dick Kelly. “Their generosity never wavers, and they demonstrate it every day with their focus and commitment to our communities.”

United Way of America awarded its 19<sup>th</sup> 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
- Microsoft – Employee Community Engagement

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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](http://www.unitedway.org).*