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UNITED WAY OF SALT LAKE

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Celebration of Service: United Way of Salt Lake Presents Annual Report - Continued Progress Made in Changing the Odds for Kids and Families

SALT LAKE CITY — United Way of Salt Lake (UWSL) unveiled its 2013-2014 Annual Report to the Community during its *Celebration of Service*, demonstrating for another year, that it is indeed an organization “Changing the Odds” for kids and families in our community’s most challenged neighborhoods.

The report details UWSL’s Collective Impact work to change community conditions by advancing the education, income stability and health of the neighborhoods and communities where United Way works – Clearfield, Kearns, Park City, Salt Lake City, South Salt Lake and West Valley. The work is being accomplished on the ground at 19 Neighborhood Centers. Neighborhood Centers are located in schools, apartment complexes and community centers. Each Center focuses on education as the foundation of its work and offers services such as early learning, afterschool programs, adult education, tutoring, savings strategies, job training programs and basic health care.

Specific results show proficiency in math skills among students in community schools up 13 percent, while reading proficiency among refugee students saw an 11 percent increase. The number of at-risk kids who were immunized is up 12 percent, nearly 50 percent in a two year period.

“This past year has been one of tremendous growth and numerous successes, and we are thrilled to share our *Annual Report* with the community,” said Deborah Bayle, President and CEO of United Way of Salt Lake. “We’ve continued to work with our each of our partners in innovative ways to ensure that we build upon our promise to change the odds for kids and their families in the neighborhoods where the needs are the greatest.”

Some of UWSL’s greatest successes over the past year include its efforts to expand access to high-quality preschool for at-risk children in Utah.

In partnership with Goldman Sachs, J.B. Pritzker, Salt Lake County, Granite School District and Voices for Utah Children, UWSL launched the first-ever results-based financing vehicle to expand access to high-quality preschool for 600 at-risk children.

UWSL continued this work by supporting and influencing the passage of HB96 – the *Utah School Readiness Initiative* sponsored by Utah State Representative Greg Hughes. The innovative legislation is the first of its kind to allow private investors to partner with the state to invest in preschool programs that demonstrate lasting results and ultimately save taxpayer dollars.

Also during this year’s legislative session, UWSL was able to secure \$500,000 of ongoing funding to help ensure Utah’s 2-1-1 system can continue to provide quality, up-to-date information for free to Utahns in need and those seeking opportunities to volunteer. Over the past year, the state-wide service

took nearly 100,000 calls and made more than 155,000 referrals. The majority of the referrals were for individuals seeking utility assistance, emergency help, or the nearest food bank.

In addition to the *Annual Report* highlights detailed above, five Celebration of Service award winners were also honored at the luncheon. They include, **Voices for Utah Children** as the Promise Partner of the Year, **Craig Wagstaff** as Volunteer of the Year, **Workers Compensation Fund** as the Corporate Partner of the Year, **Utah State Representative Greg Hughes** as recipient of the President's Award for Excellence, and **Michael Weinholtz** as Compassionate Leader of the Year.

“UWSL is honored to have the unwavering support of these amazing individuals and organizations,” said Bayle. “This year’s award recipients are our community’s true leaders and each one of them has been critical to helping us deliver on our promise that every child can succeed and every community can prosper.”

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United Way of Salt Lake is working to advance the education, income, and health of our neighborhoods and communities to ensure that every child succeeds, every step of the way, from cradle to career. We invite everyone to be a part of the change. You can give, you can advocate, and you can volunteer. That’s what it means to LIVE UNITED. Join the conversation by visiting our blog at uwslhub.org, or find out more at uw.org.