

Press Release



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Valero wins United Way's Spirit of the Bay Award **Exceptional employee giving and strong volunteerism earn United Way's highest tribute**

SAN FRANCISCO, May 2, 2007 – Yesterday evening, United Way of the Bay Area (UWBA) honored Valero Benicia Refinery ("Valero") with its highest tribute, the 2006 Spirit of the Bay Award.

With a strong showing in every category considered by the UWBA awards committee, Valero edged out 28 other Bay Area companies that completed applications for the 2006 award. Valero's extremely high campaign participation rate – 95% of employees donated during the 2006-7 United Way campaign – and strong volunteerism were key factors in the win.

Valero was recognized for its efforts to help UWBA expand 2-1-1 into Solano County. Valero employees serve on the 2-1-1 Solano Working Group, which has obtained more than 20 endorsements from Solano county leaders and community organizations that are essential for United Way to secure the license to operate 2-1-1 in the county. Valero employees are also helping United Way enhance its 2-1-1 database by making personal visits to dozens of Solano-County nonprofit organizations to ensure their records are current.

For the last several years, Valero has also provided UWBA with a full-time "loaned executive," an employee whose salary is paid by Valero while he or she spends three months working at United Way during the intense fall fund-raising season. In addition, participation by Valero employees in United Way's annual Week of Caring volunteer program has more than doubled during the last three years.

"We're honored to be recognized and proud to take a leadership role in our communities," said Doug Comeau, vice-president and general manager at the Benicia refinery. "I am most gratified by the culture of giving that all our employees demonstrate throughout the year to make the world a better place."

United Way of the Bay Area CEO Anne Wilson said, "Valero's partnership with United Way is a great example of how a company can achieve maximum community impact on multiple fronts – through monetary donations, as well as the power of employee volunteers and the passion that accompanies it. We thank Doug Comeau and Valero Campaign Chair Roger Driver for nurturing such a strong culture of giving and volunteerism among employees."

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Each year, United Way's prestigious award recognizes a single Bay Area employer that exceeds all others in community involvement through its partnership with UWBA. Twenty nine local employers submitted applications for the 2006 award, which were reviewed by an independent evaluation committee composed of representatives from Bay Area corporations actively involved with United Way.

In addition to the Spirit of the Bay Award, United Way presented awards in several other categories to recognize local companies and individuals for their outstanding dedication to community. These include:

- **Excellence in Community Collaboration Award:** Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano.
- **Gold-medal winners:** Chevron Corporation; Dow Chemical Company; UPS; and Valero Benicia Refinery.
- **Silver-medal winners:** Bank of America; BRE Properties, Inc.; Enterprise Rent-a-Car; FedEx; GPSG A Unit of ALZA Corporation; Nordstrom; Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP; Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP; and Wells Fargo.
- **Bronze-medal winners:** Anheuser-Busch, INC. – Fairfield Brewery; AT&T Corporation; Callan Associates Inc.; Comcast; JCPenney; SamTrans; and Target.
- **Anchor Awards** recognize companies that had more than 50% employee participation, more than 50% or \$100,000 in employee giving, and donated their corporate gift to United Way's Bay Area Community Fund: Ball Metal Container Group; Costco; Dodge & Cox; Enterprise Rent-A-Car; ITW J&B Aviation; ITW Signode Western Operations; Men and Women of Organized Labor; UPS; Valero Benicia Refinery; and Wells Fargo.
- **Other companies recognized were:** ACCO Engineered Systems; Bay Area News Group/East Bay; BRE Properties, Inc.; Dublin San Ramon Services District; Gordon & Rees LLP; IXIS; KGO-7; Mervyn's; Squire, Sanders & Dempsey L.L.P.; and Washington Mutual.

About United Way of the Bay Area

United Way of the Bay Area (UWBA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to community impact. UWBA serves Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo and Solano Counties. Our mission is to be the catalyst that enables people to strengthen their communities by investing in one another. Through the Bay Area Community Fund, United Way supports more than 250 local programs that fight poverty and create opportunities for children, youth, families and neighborhoods to thrive. In San Francisco and Santa Clara Counties, 2-1-1 is an easy-to-remember phone number operated by United Way that connects people in need—as well as individuals seeking to give—with community services. United Way's introduction of 2-1-1 is the first step in plans to promote and establish 2-1-1 service throughout the Bay Area. For more information, visit www.uwba.org.