

Press Release



Contact:

Maria Stokes, United Way of the Bay Area
415-808-4264, mstokes@uwba.org

United Way Awards “Spirit of the Bay” to Wells Fargo and BRE Properties

Exceptional volunteerism and executive leadership earn United Way’s highest tribute

SAN FRANCISCO, May 29, 2009 – Yesterday evening, United Way of the Bay Area honored Wells Fargo Bank and BRE Properties Inc. with its highest tribute, the 2009 Spirit of the Bay Award. The award recognizes companies that most outstandingly embodied a corporate culture of philanthropy during the 2008-09 United Way campaign.

Each year, United Way honors Bay Area employers for exceptional community involvement. This year marks the first time United Way awarded Spirit of the Bay to two companies. The United Way awards committee wanted to acknowledge both a large company (more than 500 employees), as well as honor a smaller firm (500 or fewer employees).

Wells Fargo was recognized for its strong participation in United Way’s Week of Caring, which jumped 69% from 1,600 volunteers in 2007 to 2,700 volunteers in 2008. During Week of Caring, Wells Fargo employees supported 71 Bay Area nonprofits on 198 projects, totaling an estimated 8,100 hours of volunteer time. United Way also commended Wells Fargo executives, who set positive examples for giving back and encouraged team members to give their time, business expertise and financial support to nonprofits. In 2008, 6,190 employees served on more than 10,180 nonprofit boards across the country.

“We are proud to call Wells Fargo our ‘hometown bank,’ and we honor their strong commitment to communities here in the Bay Area and across the country,” said Anne Wilson, CEO of United Way of the Bay Area. “Wells Fargo team members recognized the needs, seized opportunities to help, and committed more financial and human capital to the community than ever before. We also thank Wells Fargo CEO John Stumpf for his leadership and support as our 2008-09 United Way campaign chair.”

BRE Properties Inc. was recognized for its leadership in helping to launch and expand Real Estate 4 Tomorrow’s Adults, a United Way program that creates internships for Bay Area students, building their skills and cultivating the next generation of real estate professionals. BRE was also honored for doubling the number of employee volunteers who participated in Week of Caring.

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United Way of the Bay Area CEO Anne Wilson said, “We at United Way want to thank all of our supporters at BRE, especially president Connie Moore, who demonstrates what it really means to LIVE UNITED. Connie has helped United Way engage the real estate industry to create new pathways for youth through the Real Estate 4 Tomorrow’s Adults initiative. Connie is a passionate advocate for building strong partnerships between businesses and nonprofits, and she leads by example.”

Thirty four local employers submitted applications for the 2008-09 award, which were reviewed by an independent evaluation committee composed of representatives from Bay Area corporations actively involved with United Way.

About United Way of the Bay Area

United Way of the Bay Area is a nonprofit organization that creates pathways to prosperity for the most vulnerable in our community by focusing on the essential building blocks of education, income and health. We help children achieve their potential, promote financial stability for low-wage adults and strive to improve health for everyone. Each year, we raise more than \$40 million to support community organizations. United Way also convenes partners across sectors, advocates for policy change, runs community programs and educates residents about the issues most vital to a resilient community. Founded in 1922, United Way of the Bay Area serves Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo and Solano Counties. For more information, visit www.uwba.org.

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