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For Immediate Release

LICKING COUNTY UNITED WAY HOLDS 76th ANNUAL MEETING

NEWARK - The Licking County United Way held its 76th Annual Meeting on March 19th at The Place off the Square in downtown Newark. The meeting celebrated leadership and volunteerism and included changes to the organization's by-laws, the election of new board members, an update on the organization's community impact work, upcoming events, recognition of volunteers and annual campaign results.

One highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Ken Johnston Volunteer of the Year Award. This award honors a volunteer who embodies the spirit of the United Way movement by a commitment to volunteerism with United Way or a United Way partner agency. This year's recipient is Ray Francis, a volunteer for the Licking County Aging Program.

"We are thrilled that Ray was selected to receive this honor. He has been an active volunteer helping to serve lunch to our seniors." said Dave Bibler, Executive Director of the Licking County Aging Program. "We are fortunate to have a dedicated volunteer like Ray. He always has a smile to share with everyone."

An additional highlight of the evening included the announcement of the amount raised during United Way's 2008-09 campaign. This year, the United Way raised \$1,948,915.

"We received terrific support from our community and campaign leadership." said Tony Adams, 2008-09 campaign chair and State Farm Agent. "Thank you to our volunteers who served on the campaign cabinet and as loaned executives for their hard work this past year. The funds they raised will help many Licking County residents."

The United Way Board of Directors approved a revision to the organization's mission statement to read - **Improve lives by mobilizing resources across Licking County.** "This statement is concise and we believe it will help others have a clearer understanding of what we do. It reflects United Way's ability to bring together the necessary resources of all types including volunteers, leadership, and financial resources to meet identified needs in this community." said Donna L. Carpenter, Executive Director of Licking County United Way.

For additional information on the annual meeting, United Way funded programs, or on how you can make a donation or volunteer with United Way, contact the Licking County United Way at (740) 345-6685 or info@lcuw.net.

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