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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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United Way of Greater Greensboro's Tocqueville Dinner Raises \$374,000

Greensboro, NC- United Way of Greater Greensboro's Tocqueville Society Dinner concluded with the announcement from 2009 Chairs Nancy and Frank Brenner that, "As of tonight, we have raised over \$374,000 ... including four new \$25,000 commitments."

"To set the pace, Frank and I will pledge \$25,000, that's more than double what we gave last year. There are almost 500 families waiting for childcare scholarships at Guilford Child Development. There is a 30% increase in demand for New Choices program services at Women's Resource Center. Let's help others in our community – right here, right now!"

Significantly contributing to the celebratory mood was the NC Regional Bounty Dinner Menu, provided by Triad Community Kitchen, a program of Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest NC. Delightful, local decorations were generously provided by Bell House, Hospice and Palliative Care of Greensboro's Kids Path, and YMCA of Greensboro.

The evening focused on how a gift to United Way changes lives; particularly during this challenging economic time. Angie and Johnnie Vineyard were the featured guests sharing their story that shed light on the importance of Family Service of the Piedmont's Consumer Credit Counseling program. Angie and Johnny began as many young married couples do. Then an illness struck. Undiagnosed for years, doctor bills mounted and answers weren't available. During the worst of times, there wasn't money for food. Johnny shared, "I had to hunt and fish to put food on our table." The debt that the couple grossed threatened to steal their home and their marriage. Times were dire. "I turned to United Way and found Family Service of the Piedmont's Consumer Credit Counseling program, a United Way funded program" he said. As they worked their way through credit counseling, Angie and Johnnie were able to climb out of debt, solidify their marriage, secure a house, and get their lives back on track. A special story of success, Johnnie was hired by the Consumer Credit Counseling program where he is now a director.

The United Way Tocqueville Society promotes voluntary community service and personal giving at an exceptional level. The Society recognizes local philanthropic leaders and volunteer champions around the world who have devoted time, talent, and funds. Members of the Tocqueville Society contribute at least \$10,000 annually to a member United Way. Count and Countess Guy de Tocqueville d'Herouville, and their three children, Patrick, Jean-Guillaume, and Alex, have graciously granted permission for United Way Worldwide to use the Tocqueville name and coat of arms.

Earlier in the evening, Pam Sessoms, Chair of Tocqueville Women’s Leadership, reminded the prominent guests that the first women’s initiative in the country was created by United Way of Greater Greensboro and Bonnie McElveen-Hunter: “In 1999, in partnership with Merrill Lynch, we celebrated in The Wall Street Journal that Greensboro had more women Tocqueville members than any other community in the country!” “Today, 72 women contribute \$805,000 to Greensboro – that’s 33% of our Tocqueville dollars. In the nation, women are contributing almost a billion dollars nationally! That’s incredible – and it all started in Greensboro!!!”



Photo by Lynn Donovan

Chuck Flynt, Board Chair, United Way of Greater Greensboro (far left) and Pam Sessoms, Chair, Tocqueville Women’s Leadership (far right) enjoy the evening with Angie and Johnnie Vineyard, representing Family Service of the Piedmont’s Consumer Credit Counseling Program