



For Immediate Release

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Grant to United Way Capital Area Will Build Behavioral Skills in Young Children

Early Intervention Helps Children Adapt to Demands of School and Life

AUSTIN, Texas – March 28, 2011 – The United Way Capital Area (UWCA) today announced a \$1 million matching grant from the Buena Vista Foundation for its Success by Six (SB6) program. The funds will go toward working with preschool children on behavioral issues such as aggression, listening and paying attention with the goal of making classrooms more conducive to learning. In addition to the SB6 program which focuses on early childhood education, UWCA also focuses on youth education, income and health issues to build and strengthen the community as a whole.

UWCA is challenging the community to help match the gift which is structured as a matching grant of a \$200,000 pledge for each of the next four years that will be received when donors match that amount. The Buena Vista Foundation also pledged an additional \$50,000 donation each year which is given outright to UWCA.

“Ensuring that all children learn the skills necessary to succeed in school and in life is imperative,” said Betsy Abell, President of the Buena Vista Foundation. “The best and most effective investment we can make is providing high quality programs and interventions that help young children enter school ready to learn.”

The SB6 program works closely with local nonprofits, child care centers and school districts to offer supplemental services such as mental health support groups, mental health assessments, professional development for childcare teachers, parent education programs and a therapeutic nursery school. Funds also will be used to educate parents and teachers on how children develop both socially and emotionally as well as strategies for managing disruptive or harmful behaviors. SB6’s goal is for all Central Texas children to enter kindergarten happy, healthy and ready for school success.

“This gift gives us stability and assurance that we can continue this important work and reach our long-term community goals,” said UWCA President Debbie Bresette. “We invite the community to help us raise the matching dollars and deliver critical services to children.”

Social and emotional learning is one of three goals of the SB6 program. For additional information on the results of the SB6 program during the past five years, please visit the Success By 6 Report to the Community at www.sb6centraltexas.org.

About United Way Capital Area

United Way Capital Area is working hard to advance the common good by focusing on three key areas: education, income and health – the building blocks for a good life. UWCA works to create measurable change that prevent problems from happening in the first place and that empowers people to improve the quality of life for themselves and others. Our vision for Central Texas is a community where all individuals and families achieve their human potential through education, income and healthy lives. For more information, please visit www.unitedwaycapitalarea.org.

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