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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS GUIDE RAPPAHANNOCK UNITED WAY IN ALLOCATING OVER \$1 MILLION IN COMMUNITY IMPACT FUNDS**

July 7, 2015 – Fredericksburg, VA – Ask Quincey Garcia if the donation you made to the Rappahannock United Way really makes a difference in our community, and she won't hesitate to answer.

"I would assure donors that their donations are used wisely to enhance and build programs that directly benefit our community in some very amazing ways," said Garcia, who recently served on the Rappahannock United Way Citizen Review Panel. Garcia and others reviewed grant applications to help decide how donated funds would be distributed to create positive changes in the areas of Education, Income and Health.

A total of \$1,001,687 was awarded last week for the 2015-16 funding year to 36 local community programs throughout the Fredericksburg region. For a complete list go to <http://www.rappahannockunitedway.org/Documents/1516Dis.pdf>

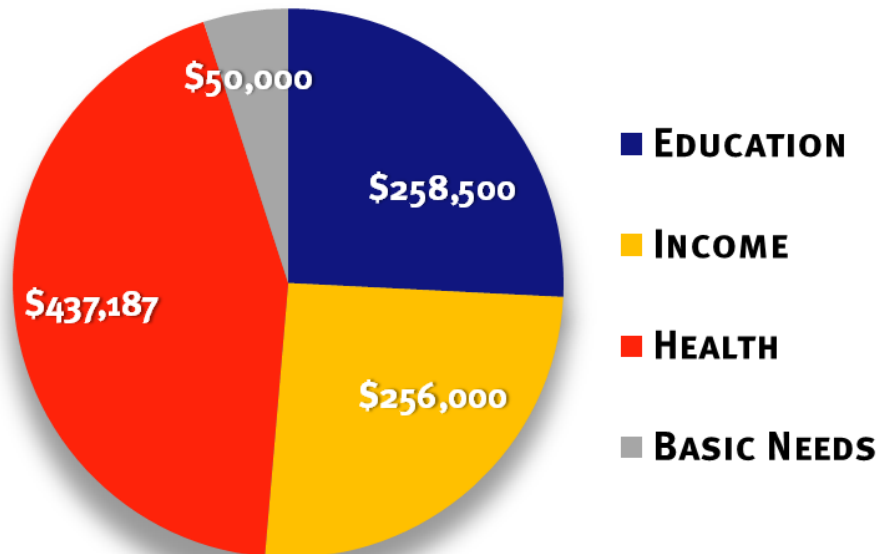
Garcia and 50 other Rappahannock United Way volunteers served on 15 different panels to help decide which local programs in the Fredericksburg region to fund. This Citizen Review group spent a total of more than 800 hours assessing proposals and developing funding recommendations based on the measurable impact of each program. Volunteer observations and recommendations strongly influenced the final funding decisions made by the Rappahannock United Way Board of Directors.

"I feel honored and humbled to be part of the Citizen Review process," said Garcia, who is also the Director of Medical Staff Services, Volunteer Services and Co-Ethics & Compliance Officer at Spotsylvania Regional Medical Center. "This process is important to me because there are many

great new programs out there that help to support the community. The work that goes into the decisions made is a truly collaborative effort from community members to best assist the nonprofits of our community!”

Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016, funds will be distributed as follows:

## 2015-16 FUNDING BY FOCUS AREA



Stafford resident Denny Fallon decided to get involved in the Citizen Review process at Rappahannock United Way when he retired from Lockheed Martin in 2011.

“I wanted to get more involved in the local community,” said Fallon, who has been volunteering for the United Way since 1994 when he lived in Upstate New York and has been a part of the local Citizen Review process at Rappahannock United Way for the past five years. “I’m a big fan. The process is a phenomenal example of transparency. It’s assurance that the money will be allocated to the programs of highest impact.”

New Citizen Review Panel members like Libby O’Malley and Rob Dodd, Jr. believe it’s important for people to know how the Rappahannock United Way funding process works.

“This process has helped me have a better understanding of why some organizations fit under United Way’s mission and some don’t,” said O’Malley, CEO and Founder of daySmarts. “It gave me exposure to organizations that I wasn’t even aware of.”

“To be able to see the projects in action and see the number of people Rappahannock United Way is helping, made it a lot more personal for me,” said Dodd, President of DLR Contracting, Inc. “It’s not just about a check. The more people who can understand what’s being done with those funds, the more people you can help.”

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