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Stars Shine at Trident United Way Annual Celebration

CHARLESTON, S.C. – Nearly 350 philanthropic leaders gathered together at Trident Technical College on Friday evening to recognize the work of Trident United Way and its partners over the past year. WCSC-TV's Ann McGill hosted the organization's annual celebration, dubbed "An Evening of Lowcountry Stars."

"We are so excited to have this opportunity tonight to come together with our funded partners, donors and volunteers to celebrate the successes we've had over the past year working together for transformation in the Tri-County region," Trident United Way President & CEO Christopher Kerrigan said.

The evening recognized corporations and individuals in the community for their dedication to community transformation in education, financial stability and health. Trident United Way bestowed its second annual Funded Partner of the Year award to Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center in recognition of its collective impact work serving victims of child abuse and their families. TUW cited Dee Norton's Charleston Child Trauma Conference as an example of bringing people from different organizations together to work towards a shared goal and evaluating success using shared metrics. Dee Norton has served 26,000 children and families since 1991 and its conference has brought national attention to the organization and its cause.

Palmetto Warrior Connection and WINGS for kids were also nominated for the Funded Partner of the Year Award.

Medical University of South Carolina and Roper St. Francis Healthcare shared the Corporate Community Builders of the Year award for success in three areas: annual campaign, volunteerism and the hospitals' work with Trident United Way in launching Healthy Tri-County in January. The regional initiative has brought together 45 community organizations made up of more than 500 individuals focused on moving the needle on the Tri-County's biggest health challenges.

The Citadel's Vice President for Finance and Business Col. Joseph Garcia was also recognized for his contribution to Trident United Way through orchestrating a revitalized workplace campaign. He received the Ben Stage Above and Beyond award for his first year as an employee campaign coordinator where he boosted donations going to Trident United Way by 38 percent in a campaign that marked the highest amount raised for the organization by The Citadel in the last five years.

Trident Health Assistant Vice President of Business Development Deb Campeau was awarded the Community Builder of the Year award as a tireless volunteer for Trident United Way over a span of 20 years. Campeau has been involved in multiple areas of TUW, including serving on the Board of Directors, acting as the Women's Leadership Council Chair and volunteering with the public policy council and strategic planning committee.

Trident United Way sincerely thanks each of the individuals and organizations in attendance for Living United to create **bold community change** in the Tri-County region.

Trident United Way is a catalyst for measureable community transformation through collective impact in education, financial stability and health.