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Mayor Ron Nirenberg and Valero CEO Joe Gorder Kick off 2017 United Way Campaign, Announcing a \$25.5 Million Lead Toward the \$47.5 Million Goal

SAN ANTONIO, TX – (October 13, 2017) -- A growing community need inspired donors of local Pacesetter companies to generously give as the 2017 United Way Community Campaign officially launches. Joe Gorder, 2017 United Way campaign chairman and Valero chairman, president and CEO; announced that 162 Pacesetter firms and nonprofit agencies have pledged \$25,490,308 toward this year's \$47.5 million goal.

The Pacesetter campaign runs prior to the kickoff of the full, community-wide campaign to set the campaign tempo and to generate enthusiasm, support and leadership. **The employees of United Way Pacesetter companies raised \$25.5 million, which is 54 percent of the total campaign goal.**

Mayor Ron Nirenberg spoke to the 1,200 people in attendance at the announcement luncheon held Friday at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, expressing his support for the work of the local United Way.

"Recently, I reached out for help on the Hurricane Relief efforts and I was overwhelmed by the immediate outpouring of support from the nonprofit community, local businesses and thousands of San Antonians. We saw our community come together in an amazing way with everyone doing their part. And that is exactly what United Way is all about – the community coming together to identify and fill the community's most pressing needs. As individuals we can only accomplish so much. But by working together as a community, we can make great things happen. So I'd like to thank the many local businesses and other groups that put so much time and effort into United Way workplace campaigns and the thousands of individuals who will give selflessly. That's what community is all about. Neighbors helping neighbors," said Mayor Nirenberg.

Gorder challenged local companies and individuals in San Antonio to get involved and participate in the United Way campaign to help the children, families, elderly, disabled, and homeless across Bexar County.

"Many San Antonio children, families and individuals are experiencing challenges," said Gorder. "For all of us, but especially for those living near the edge, many factors have prompted more people to seek help from

United Way. Fortunately, our campaign is off to a strong start, and we are confident that we will meet our goal to help as many people as possible in San Antonio,” he said.

The United Way community campaign concludes with a final total announcement on Wednesday, December 13, 2017.

“San Antonio is a national leader in United Way giving because there is a mentality of generosity and a strong sense of community here,” Gorder said. “The community’s continued commitment to United Way will help improve the quality of life for countless citizens of one of the greatest cities in America. It is now up to all of us to maintain the momentum and push the campaign over the top,” he added.

United Way is the largest private health and human service organization in Bexar County. Through investments in 69 partner agencies and 137 programs, United Way works to prepare children, help students, strengthen individuals and families, and provide safety net services for those in immediate need of food, clothing, shelter and disaster assistance.

“The need for United Way help is greater than ever—especially for basic, safety net services such as food, clothing, shelter, childcare, job placement and many other vital services,” said Gorder. “Our donors are the heart of the community and are stepping up in unprecedented ways to reach this year’s campaign goal,” he said.