



The Word & Brown Companies

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**THE WORD & BROWN COMPANIES HONORED BY UNITED WAY
WITH COMMUNITY CORNERSTONE AWARD
Orange-Based Company's Outstanding Community Support Recognized**

Orange, CA – July 9, 2007 -- The Word & Brown Companies, based in Orange, were honored by United Way with the presentation of the Community Cornerstone Award for Word & Brown's outstanding campaign efforts to support United Way as well their many other volunteer and financial support contributions that benefit the Orange County community. The award was presented on June 19th at United Way's annual Campaign Celebration Awards event at the Balboa Pavilion on Newport Beach.

Word & Brown raised a record \$114, 592, including more than \$76,395 in employee contributions, during The Word & Brown Companies' 2006/2007 campaign. Other finalists for the Community Cornerstone Award were: Nordstrom, Fluor Corporation, Wells Fargo Bank, Bank of America, Washington Mutual, Kimberly-Clark Corporation, Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian, Pacific Life Insurance Company, Avery Dennison, Deloitte, Safeco Insurance, Alcon Laboratories, Inc., Advanced Sterilization Products and Snell & Welmer, L.L.P.

In presenting the award, Orange County United Way board member Peter Case commented on The Word & Brown Companies' breadth of community support, and noted that "The Word & Brown Companies' mission statement reinforces expectations for integrity and service from employees in their industry and also in the community, encouraging employees to not only strive for the highest levels of excellence in their industry but within their community as well."

Edward J. "Rusty" Brown, Jr., co-founder of The Word & Brown Companies, accepted the award.

"We are very proud to receive this award," Brown stated, "but most importantly, proud of the efforts of The Word & Brown Companies and our employees, which have helped United Way and other charitable organizations provide assistance and support to people throughout the years. We consider 'giving back' a big part of our company's culture."

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The philanthropic spirit and commitment of The Word & Brown Companies is exemplified in its history of active involvement and the support of co-founders John M. Word III and Edward J. “Rusty” Brown, Jr.

John M. Word III has been a member of the United Way board since 1976 and has been honored with its Lifetime Achievement Award. The company’s annual campaign drive has continued for more than 13 years and employees are encouraged through a variety of incentives to contribute as much as they can. Incentives range from free car washes and hours off work to mall certificates, a catered lunch, and a full day off. Employees can log onto a website and direct their donation to a specific charity, including Corazon de Vida orphanage outreach programs, Olive Crest home for abused children, and others.

Providence Speech and Hearing Center in Orange is another non-profit organization that has benefited from The Word & Brown Companies support. John Word has been actively involved with Providence Speech and Hearing Center since 1976 and is currently executive vice president of its board of directors. The Word & Brown Companies have been a major financial and volunteer supporter for three decades, and contributed major funding towards the Center’s \$2.5 million expansion and renovation project this year. In recognition of this support and as part of their expansion, the Center recently opened The John Word & Rusty Brown Hearing Aid Center. The Word & Brown Companies employees regularly lead and serve on committees for the Center’s annual Costume Ball, Golf Classic and bowling event, which netted more than \$334,000 to benefit the Center during the last year alone.

For 11 years the Word & Brown General Agency has been the presenting sponsor and organizer of the annual One Heart at a Time Golf Classic benefiting the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. This year’s sold-out event raised a record \$28,000 and received statewide recognition from the California Association of Health Underwriters.

The Word & Brown Companies also support Corazon de Vida, which benefits orphanages in Mexico. Word & Brown employees volunteer their own time to travel to Mexico to spend time with the children and deliver boxes of school supplies, and the company also is a sponsor of Corazon de Vida fundraising events such as its annual golf tournament.

At Thanksgiving more than 11 years ago, Word & Brown initiated Operation Drumstick, its own in-house fundraising project to benefit the community’s needy through the Orange County Rescue Mission. The program has been extended to include special causes such as California wildfire victims in 2003 and the New York Firefighters Fund in 2001.

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The Hurricane Katrina and Tsunami disasters a few years ago brought immediate and heartfelt support from Word & Brown employees, with employee donations matched by corporate funds dollar for dollar. Donations to the American Red Cross totaled \$20,000 for Hurricane Katrina relief efforts and almost \$11,000 for Tsunami victims, in addition to large amounts of donated clothing.

About The Word & Brown Companies

Spanning three decades, **The Word & Brown Companies** are leaders in offering innovative health benefit plan models and the nation's most sophisticated Employee Choice benefits services to employers of all sizes. The Word & Brown Companies provide services to more than 35,000 employers covering more than 600,000 employees. **Word & Brown General Agency** provides brokers with the industry's most advanced quoting system, which automatically calculates RAFs; comprehensive sales tools; and free COBRA and Premium Only Plans. **CHOICE Administrators®**, the nation's leader in developing and administering Employee Choice health benefit programs for small and mid-size employer groups, includes **CaliforniaChoice®**, **CaliforniaChoice 51+** and **Kaiser Permanente Choice Solution**, as well as **Contractor's Choice®** for hour bank employees on public works projects. **CONEXIS** is the nation's oldest and most trusted COBRA administrator and employee benefits administration company, offering Section 125 Flexible Spending Accounts and many other services, and is the only benefits administrator offering performance standards and guarantees to all clients.

For more information about The Word & Brown Companies, visit www.wordandbrowncompanies.com.

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