

NEWS RELEASE

May 29, 2009

Contact: Barbara Reinertsen, 443-9752

BIW President Reaffirms Company's Continued Strong Support at United Way Annual Meeting

Speaking about the future of Bath Iron Works and its partnership with the United Way and the mid coast community, BIW president Jeff Geiger, citing the long standing, excellent relationship between BIW and the United Way, told a full audience at United Way of Mid Coast Maine's annual meeting, "I can say without hesitation that BIW's commitment to the United Way remains strong...the bonds between our organizations are extensive and firm."

"United Way has a major impact on those of us who live and work in the mid coast region," said Geiger, who also noted that his years on United Way's Board of Directors helped him gain a much better appreciation for the magnitude and diversity of needs United Way addresses, the thoroughness of its fund distribution decisions, the quality of the people associated with it, and its importance to our community. He said, "I feel the theme, "LIVE UNITED", is particularly appropriate given the economic challenges we've all been facing and the resulting social impacts. Neither businesses nor communities exist in a vacuum. Rather, each feeds off the success or failure of the other, which makes it even more important for companies, organizations like United Way and communities to stand together today and address the needs of those most severely impacted."

Speaking about the company and its employees, he said, "While I am proud of the financial and in-kind support BIW as a company has provided ... I am most proud of the things our employees do on their own as individuals or as a team." Geiger said the "same people who put their energy, skills and passion into building the world's best ships bring those traits with them when they address the challenges facing our communities today through their volunteer work." He went on to cite examples of extensive volunteering by BIW employees for many causes, including Habitat for Humanity, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Trek Across Maine, Morse High School, Veterans No Boundaries, Toys for Tots, and United Way.

In discussing BIW's outlook for the future he said, "We will most certainly experience periodic ups and downs in our employment levels ... it is a natural pattern of shipbuilding ..." However, he went on to say, "Today, in the shipyard we are able to think more optimistically about our future and see a period of stability and growth primarily because of the accomplishments of the people of BIW." He credited the "skills...innovation and creativity...of thousands of Maine shipbuilders", along with transformational process and facility improvements, for significantly reducing the cost of BIW's ships and making it possible to be "more optimistic about the future of BIW than we've been able to be in the recent past."

Geiger concluded his remarks by saying: "Looking forward, I think we all can take a large measure of comfort in knowing that our respective organizations are flush with great

people who recognize the importance of their job and their communities. While it's unlikely that the business of shipbuilding will ever rid itself from its periodic ups and downs, I think we can also take a measure of comfort that we are entering a period of relative stability that will enable both of our organizations to continue to do what must be done. That's good news for our country, for Maine and for both the BIW and United Way families."

Holly Stover, United Way Board Chair, thanked Geiger and all the BIW employees for their outstanding support, including the volunteer team that helped raise \$790,000 last fall, or 40% of United Way's entire campaign, in addition to a host of company and in-kind donations, and volunteer service on United Way's Cabinet, Solutions Councils, and Board.

Stover reviewed the work of United Way in 2008, including both its successful campaign and its response to local people being hurt by the economy. United Way worked to convene and boost local food pantries to meet the growing need, undertook a major winter preparedness initiative, funded 2-1-1 which linked a record number of callers to help, put together a Directory of Services for laid off workers and others, administered the Emergency Food and Shelter program, partnered in a CASH coalition to help working people get deserved tax credits, and funded critical programs providing food, shelter, homelessness prevention, transportation, and family development to increase financial independence.

"We know that financial stability is one of the most important things that people need in life," said Stover. "Along with education and health, it is a critical focus for United Way.... We paid special attention to urgent problems and economic assistance, while also maintaining our long view and focus on prevention."

Receiving United Way's annual Community Builder Awards were: the Winter Preparedness Action Program Volunteers, who together winterized over 70 homes and reached out to thousands of Mid Coast residents with information about help to stay warm; Charlie Wing, an energy expert who trained hundreds of volunteers to find the most cost-effective, least expensive energy fixes for homes; and Le Garage, a Wiscasset restaurant owned by Cheryl Rust which has made extensive contributions to the community and to the well-being of generations of employees.

Also at the meeting, Robert McCue, Vice President of Finance for Mid Coast Health Services, was elected as Chair of United Way's Board of Directors. Glenn Hutchinson, CEO of Bath Savings Institution, and Pam Bowerman of Norway Savings Bank, were elected as First and Second Vice Chairs, and Geoff Gattis of Bath Savings Institution was elected as Treasurer. Pam Bowerman, Jill Haer, and Margaret Wilson were re-elected to United Way's Board of Directors.

Maria Hinteregger, who staffs the Basic Needs/Safety Net and Youth & Lifelong Learning Solutions Councils, was honored for her ten years of service to United Way.

United Way of Mid Coast Maine's mission is to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities. In partnership with thousands of donors, United Way works on community solutions in the areas of education, financial stability, and health. It funds local programs that change thousands of lives in Brunswick and Harpswell, Sagadahoc and Lincoln Counties.

###