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For Immediate Release

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National Grid Donates \$165,000 to United Way of Rhode Island

Gift will be used to support 2-1-1, United Way's 24X7 Helpline

Providence, R.I. (September 8, 2011) Representatives of National Grid, including Timothy F. Horan, president, National Grid Rhode Island and New Hampshire, visited United Way of Rhode Island headquarters on Tuesday, September 6, to deliver a check for \$165,000 to Anthony Maione, president & CEO of United Way of Rhode Island. The gift was made to recognize the work of *United Way 2-1-1 in Rhode Island (2-1-1)*, United Way's 24-hour information and referral helpline and the help they provided to Rhode Islanders affected by Hurricane Irene.

"The donation was made to support the essential service the United Way's 2-1-1 line provides to Rhode Islanders, as it has done during the ongoing recovery from Hurricane Irene," said Mr. Horan.

"We're grateful to National Grid for their generous support," added Mr. Maione. "Although Irene inflicted a lot of damage on our state, Rhode Islanders once again pulled together to help one another get through this crisis."

In response to Governor Lincoln Chafee's declaration of a state of emergency, 2-1-1 was designated the emergency information and referral center for the state. To date, 2-1-1 has handled more than 24,000 calls, and 2-1-1 staff and volunteers called more than 4,000 people back to check on their status and to determine whether more help was needed. Additionally, 2-1-1 is working with Serve Rhode Island to recruit volunteers to help those in need to clear and remove debris left by the storm.

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Pictured in photo, L-R: Cristina Amedeo, *United Way 2-1-1 in Rhode Island*; Anthony Maione, United Way of Rhode Island; Timothy F. Horan, Marisa Albanese and Joseph Montanaro of National Grid

About United Way of Rhode Island

United Way of Rhode Island has been working to improve the quality of life in Rhode Island communities for over 80 years. UWRI's mission is to mobilize the caring power of the community to improve the lives of people in need and address the issues Rhode Islanders care most about. United Way's goal is to create long-lasting changes that prevent problems from happening in the first place. We believe that all Rhode Islanders deserve the opportunity to have a better life, as when any one of us succeeds, we all succeed. At United Way, we refer to this as advancing the common good. For more information, visit www.LIVEUNITEDri.org.

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