

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 2, 2011**

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## **UNITED WAY RAISES MORE THAN \$64,000 WITH FIFTH ANNUAL OSCAR NIGHT**

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*Bollywood-inspired event provides funds to help children succeed*

INDIANAPOLIS — March 2, 2011...The Murat Shrine transformed into an Indian oasis on Sun., Feb. 27 during United Way's Oscar Night America presents A Night in Bollywood. With 450 people in attendance, this year's event sold out raising more than \$64,000 towards United Way of Central Indiana's (UWCI) education priority to help ensure kids have the skills they need to succeed in school and in life.

Presented by UWCI's Emerging Leaders, young professionals who connect in activities to promote the betterment of Central Indiana, the event was organized by the all female committee chaired by Shelly Langona of RJE business interiors

Another volunteer, Rupal Thanawala served as a cultural consultant for the gala, having brought back authentic decor, dress and jewelry from India for the occasion. Nearly half the attendees dressed in Indian-inspired attire, many of whom wore costumes loaned by Thanawala.t

At the event, Korey Reaves, a Francis W. Parker Montessori School 56 student, shared his story about how United Way's tutoring program, *ReadUp*, helped him raise his reading skills to grade level.

Entertainment featured three performances from Mayuri School of Dance, artists painting guests with Henna tattoos, and the showing of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Academy Awards. Guests also enjoyed family style hors d'oeuvres, desserts and a gift bag containing an official Academy Awards program.

Citizens Energy Group was the presenting sponsor.

For more information, visit contact Jody Pope at 317.920.3460 or [jody.pope@uwci.org](mailto:jody.pope@uwci.org).

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**United Way of Central Indiana:** Serving six Central Indiana counties, United Way of Central Indiana (UWCI) helps sustain vital human services by working exclusively with proven human service agencies that direct life-changing opportunities. UWCI also helps reduce the needs of future generations by helping ensure that kids enter school ready to learn and graduate school ready to earn.