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For Immediate Release

LOCAL YOUTH DETERMINED TO MAKE A CLEAN SCENE IN NASHUA

NASHUA, NH – March 1, 2010 – Nashua-area parks and community spaces are about to become a lot cleaner thanks to the efforts of local youth who were recently awarded start-up funding for their United Way-Youth Venture teams by successfully presenting their change-making ideas before a panel of volunteers at Nashua Community College.

Urban ABC's from Souhegan High School and **Team Make a Scene**, a collaboration of students from Nashua Community College and Nashua High School-South, both plan to help beautify their communities by contributing their energy and talents and engaging others to do the same.

Urban ABC's members Michael Rego, Tanner Kent and Eric Howard hope to limit and prevent the amount of illegal graffiti in Greater Nashua by offering youth weekly classes where they will promote graffiti as a form of art, not vandalism. They also hope to encourage and increase community pride; teaching youth to respect their town, not deface it. **Urban ABC's** ultimately hopes to paint positive murals around town, creating beautiful works of art for all to enjoy.

Sisters Casey and Ashley Dean, along with friend Stephanie Lawson launched **Team Make a Scene** in an effort to clean up their community. The Team will obtain student volunteers from Nashua High School South and Nashua Community College to clean-up different outdoor spaces in the Greater Nashua area. In order to successfully accomplish this, **Team Make a Scene** has teamed up with Nashua Parks & Recreation and will use this resource to target and prioritize community parks and outdoor spaces in need of clean-up.

Casey Dean along with her fellow Nashua Community College students will act as mentors to the high school students including Ashley Dean and Stephanie Lawson. **Team Make a Scene** also will fundraise for different child-based organizations each year, starting with the Nashua's Children's Home, which is in great need of outdoor recreational equipment.

The approval of **Urban ABC's** and **Team Make a Scene** brings the number of teams launched through Youth Venture's four-year partnership with United Way of Greater Nashua and Nashua Community College to 21. A United Way-Venture Team must be a new club, service, or organization that is created, run, and managed by youth ages 12-20 and provides a positive, lasting community benefit. Approved United Way-Youth Venture Teams are awarded one-time seed grants of up to \$1,000 to launch their sustainable projects. For more information, please visit: www.unitedwaynashua.org/html/youthventure.htm

About Youth Venture:

Youth Venture® leads an international community of young people who are powerful now, changemakers now. Youth Venture inspires and invests in teams of young people to create and launch their own sustainable, community-benefiting Ventures. Youth Venture then connects them into a global movement of young changemakers who are together redefining the youth years as a time of leadership and positive social change. This is the foundation of an *Everyone a Changemaker™* world – the key factor for success in every part of society. Youth Venture currently operates in 17 countries and online at www.GenV.net

About United Way of Greater Nashua:

United Way of Greater Nashua seeks to improve people's lives by creating lasting changes in conditions that affect the 11 communities in its service area. United Way collaborates with local businesses, government, nonprofits, faith-based groups, and individuals to define and address the most pressing problems. At the same time, United Way supports a network of effective local human service programs that focus on the building blocks for a good life -- a quality education that leads to a stable job, enough income to support a family through retirement, and good health.

On the Web: www.unitedwaynashua.org

About Nashua Community College:

Nashua Community College is committed to providing comprehensive, market-driven, accessible, quality programs of higher education that respond to the needs of students, businesses, and communities. Nashua Community College seeks to meet the changing educational needs of the communities that it serves and to become the preferred provider of two-year postsecondary education in the Nashua region. After over 40 years of service to this community Nashua Community College continues to develop and expand with new programs, a strong athletic program and construction of new buildings to meet the needs of their growing and diverse student body.