

United Way Blackhawk Region

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**United Way
Blackhawk Region**



MEDIA RELEASE

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United Way Recognizes Award Recipients

(BLACKHAWK REGION) – At a breakfast event ironically themed as “The Tonight Show,” United Way recognized its corporate supporters, donors, volunteers and community partners at its annual LIVE UNITED Celebration, held at the Pontiac Convention Center in Janesville.

Imitating “The Tonight Show” host Jimmy Fallon, United Way’s 2019 Board Chair Al Hulick delivered a comical monologue, interviewed guests, and facilitated the award ceremony. As part of the program, United Way announced making its 2018 campaign goal of \$2.6 million and the achievement of more than 80 workplace campaign awards. Included in the recognition was the Cornerstone Award presented to workplace campaigns that exceeded \$100,000 in employee pledges. Receiving the Cornerstone Award this year are ABC Supply Co. inc., Beloit Health System, Kerry, Mercyhealth, and Regal.

Rock Energy Systems LLC., received the Emerging Campaign Award, in recognition for creating an atmosphere of support for United Way evidenced by a 96 percent increase in employee pledges over the previous year’s campaign.

United Way Blackhawk Region President & CEO Mary Fanning-Penny shared exciting news at the event.

“United Way’s Community Impact Council has approved a \$40,000 Capacity Building Grant for ECHO to hire a brand new, full-time housing and resource navigator. This position will help families and individuals who need assistance across Rock County to navigate a complex system with the long-term goal of attaining affordable housing,” said Fanning-Penny. “United Way is proud to be responsive to the need for enhanced homelessness services in our community.”

United Way also recognized two individuals for their advocacy and volunteerism. Erick Williams, project manager for the Fatherhood Initiative, a United Way funded program of Community Action, Inc. of Rock & Walworth Counties, was honored with the Excellence in Advocacy Award.

“Williams’ advocacy focuses on underemployed Rock County men, many of them “fatherless fathers” with criminal histories. With Erick as their guide, the men quickly begin building a community of trust and respect where both their strengths and vulnerabilities can be shared,” Hulick said. “He helps the

men navigate through old beliefs and habits and encourages them to look through a different lens, to consider a different perspective, empowering them to chart a course that is their own.”

Chief Operating Officer at Regal Beloit Corporation and Board Chair for United Way Blackhawk Region for the past three years, Jon Schlemmer was honored with the Geraldine Hedberg Volunteer of the Year Award.

Fanning-Penny remarked, “Jon leads by example, never demanding action but rather, inspiring it. We are grateful to Jon for his remarkable volunteerism and unwavering commitment to United Way’s mission.”

The annual LIVE UNITED Award, presented to a company that displays exceptional support for United Way through its workplace campaign, as well as volunteerism, was presented to Blackhawk Community Credit Union.

United Way Blackhawk Region Resource Development Director Rick West stated, “In addition to supporting United Way financially, members of the BHCCU team are also strong advocates and volunteers of United Way’s mission serving on the board of directors, participating in Day of Caring, and the community grant review process.”

More than 300 United Way benefactors attended the LIVE UNITED Celebration, which included a heartrending vocal performance by Janesville Parker High School student, Kendyl Van Kirk accompanied by pianist Laurie Mitchell.

To learn more, access United Way Blackhawk Region’s newly released Annual Report at LiveUnitedBr.org.

About Erick Williams – Recipient of the Excellence in Advocacy Award

As project manager for the Fatherhood Initiative at Community Action, Inc. of Rock & Walworth Counties, Williams’ advocacy focuses on underemployed Rock County men, many of them “fatherless fathers” with criminal histories. In time away from work, Williams has launched Derrick’s House, a home for children awaiting placement in Rock County’s foster system. The children served by Derrick’s House would otherwise be housed in the Rock County Youth Services Center while they wait for a foster family. Williams was featured in the Northwest Quarterly magazine in 2016 as one of the 25 most interesting people in the Stateline area. Also, in 2016 he received the UAW Local 95 Civil Rights Service Award. In May of 2017, he was awarded a Citizen’s Citation Award by the City of Beloit for aiding a woman in a domestic violence altercation, which led to the arrest of the assailant. In 2017, he was honored to receive the Presidential award from the NAACP.

About Jon Schlemmer – Recipient of the Geraldine Hedberg Volunteer of the Year Award

Chief Operating Officer at Regal Beloit Corporation, Jon Schlemmer has served as United Way Blackhawk Region’s Board of Directors Chair for the past three years. Schlemmer has led the organization with the highest level of integrity and professionalism. In support of United Way’s

community campaign, Schlemmer is a generous donor and doesn't hesitate to phone a peer executive to encourage their support. Schlemmer helps to set the tone at Regal, United Way's second largest campaign, which has achieved impressive year over year increases, high employee participation, and per capita giving. Every year, Schlemmer recruits Regal team members to serve as part of United Way's financial review process for its competitive community grants, investment panels, and annual Day of Caring teams. Schlemmer possesses a Bachelor's of Science in Electrical Engineering from Purdue University.

About Blackhawk Community Credit Union (BHCCU) – Recipient of the LIVE UNITED Award

In its most recent United Way workplace campaign, the BHCCU team increased pledges by thirteen percent over the previous year while also increasing the average pledge by more than \$40. Over the past four campaigns, BHCCU has averaged employee participation of sixty three percent with a campaign year best of seventy two percent. Blackhawk Community Credit Union President and CEO Sherri Stumpf is in her second term as a member of UWBR's Board of Directors and serves as Vice Chair and Chair of the UWBR Finance Committee. Fifteen BHCCU employees donned Live United T-shirts and volunteered at three community-service project sites for United Way's annual Day of Caring.

About United Way Blackhawk Region

United Way fights for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in every community. We win by Living United, by forging unlikely partnerships and by finding new solutions to old problems; by mobilizing the best resources; and inspiring individuals to join the fight against a common foe, each community's most daunting social crises. United Way Blackhawk Region Lives United against poverty, family violence, hunger and homelessness to name a few, by providing community grants and resources to 60 human services programs at 28 nonprofit agencies in Rock County, Wis. and northern Winnebago County, Ill. More information is available at LiveUnitedBR.org.

United Way's 2018 Community Campaign Awards

Cornerstone Award

ABC Supply Co. inc.
Beloit Health System
Kerry
Mercyhealth
Regal

Gold Award

American Control Electronics
Baker Tilly
Bank of Milton
Beloit Meals on Wheels
Blackhawk Bank
Blackhawk Propane Company
BMO Harris Bank
Culver's of Beloit
Data Dimensions
Electrol Specialties
Finley Buick GMC
First Community Bank
First National Bank & Trust Co.
Forward Janesville
Janesville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
Johnson Financial Group
North American Tool Corporation
Old National Bank
RSM US
Ryeco Inc.
SSI Technologies
United Way Blackhawk Region
Wegner CPAs
Wells Fargo Advisors

Silver Award

Alliant Energy
Beloit Box Board Co.
Blackhawk Community Credit Union
BMO Harris Bank
Century 21 Affiliated-Janesville
Community Action, Inc.
Hagen CPA
Hormel Foods
Janesville Community Day Care
Janesville Gazette

Life Circle
Nowlan & Mouat
Tricor Insurance
United Parcel Service
US Bank
WCLO / WJVL Radio
YWCA Rock County

Bronze Award

Andritz Paperchine
City of Janesville Employees
Consigny Law Firm
Cotta Transmission
ECHO
Ecolab
Fagan Automotive
Gateway Community Bank
HealthNet of Rock County
Janesville Sand and Gravel
JP Cullen & Sons
Meier, Wickhem, Lyons & Schulz
North American Pipe Corporation
Rock County Employees
Roethe Pope Roethe Law Firm
S.M.I.L.E.S., Inc.
Salvation Army Janesville
School District of Janesville Employees*
Stateline Boys & Girls Clubs
Taylor Company
The Rock Bar & Grill
Union Bank & Trust Company
Valmet Inc.
Welders Supply Co.

**Based on 2017 campaign*

100% Participation Award

Baker Tilly
Beloit Meals on Wheels
Blackhawk Propane Company
Culver's of Beloit
Finley Buick GMC
Gateway Community Bank
Life Circle
Ryeco, Inc.
S.M.I.L.E.S., Inc.
United Way Blackhawk Region

Wegner CPAs
Wells Fargo Advisors

Peggy & Ebbie Neese Award of Excellence

Baker Tilly
Regal
United Way Blackhawk Region
Wells Fargo Advisors

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