

United Way Blackhawk Region

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**United Way
Blackhawk Region**



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United Way's annual community campaign kicks off

Champions of the 2017 Community Campaign announced

(BLACKHAWK REGION) – United Way Blackhawk Region officially launched its annual community campaign at a breakfast held at the Eclipse Center on Wednesday, Sept. 20.

Close to 450 United Way supporters, filled the venue to join in the excitement of the kickoff, enjoy a baseball broadcast-themed program, and celebrate another record-breaking Day of Caring.

United Way's annual Day of Caring will surpass 2016 numbers with 895 volunteers, 160 corporate teams from 43 companies, slated to complete 100 projects at 42 local nonprofit organizations. Organizers of the event thanked Beth Gliebe, the volunteer coordinator of the event for executing another record-breaking and meaningful day of volunteerism.

Champions of United Way's 2016 campaign, Jim Agate, Bill and Linda Lock, and Ron and Barb Mallon were on hand to turn over the reigns to the local community leaders championing this year's campaign.

"These four community leaders know we all win when our region is healthy, children are ready to succeed in school and life, and families are financially stable. They lead by example, as proud donors to United Way, each of their respective organizations conduct a United Way workplace campaign, and all currently volunteer or previously served on United Way committees and/or the Board of Directors," said 2016 Champion Linda Lock.

Al Hulick, City Administrator for the City of Milton, Mark Freitag, City Manager of Janesville, Ted Rehl, Mayor of South Beloit, and Lori Curtis Luther, Beloit City Manager, were announced as Champions for United Way's 2017 community campaign.

Al Hulick spoke about United Way's goals for increasing the number of workplace campaigns in the region, improving the percentage of employee participation at each company and adding more Leadership Circle donors to the campaign. He went on to say, "If we're going to change lives it will require us all working together as a team."

"By working together, we will continue to overcome our communities' biggest challenges to help the people of the Blackhawk Region," said Ted Rehl. "I'm proud to have dedicated my career to education and public service, and United Way represents perfectly what it means to Live United."

Mark Freitag said, "Speaking for all of the Champions, we extend sincere thanks to the Board of Directors, staff and all United Way donors and volunteers continuing to better the lives of those who live, work and play in the Blackhawk Region."

"United Way represents a truly collaborative effort. Families, government, education, health care, nonprofits, the business sector – all working together toward shared common goals," said Lori Curtis Luther. "Because together, we can accomplish more than any single organization – public or private – can alone."

Each year, United Way Blackhawk Region hosts an opportunity for community members to pledge gifts supporting United Way's work. As set by the board of directors, the 2017 community campaign goal is \$2.5 million.

To learn how you can give, advocate or volunteer, visit LiveUnitedBR.org.

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About United Way's 2017 Community Campaign Champions

Lori Curtis Luther, City Manager of Beloit

Lori Curtis Luther serves on United Way Blackhawk Region's Board of Directors and its Community Impact Council. Luther began working as the City Manager of Beloit in June, 2015. As the City Manager, she is responsible for overseeing all day-to-day management of the City and its various functions. Responsible for its \$40 million general fund, she manages all City departments and implements policies established by the City Council. She was born in Kansas and earned her BA from Baker University in political science and Spanish, and earned her Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Kansas. In addition to her dedicated support of United Way, Luther is also a member of the Greater Beloit Chamber Board, Visit Beloit Board, and Greater Beloit Economic Development Council. She and her family, which includes her husband a high school teacher at Beloit Memorial and their four children, are actively engaged in the community and enjoy Beloit's Farmer's Market and Music at Harry's.

Mark Freitag, City Manager of Janesville

Mark Freitag serves on United Way Blackhawk Region's Campaign Cabinet. City Manager Freitag joined the City of Janesville Team in December 2013, following a 25-year career in the U.S. Army. Freitag gained his city management experience while serving as the Garrison Commander at Fort Hood, Texas, from 2010-2012. Freitag received his undergraduate degree from the U.S. Military Academy West Point, New York. He earned a Master's Degree in Management from Saint Mary's College in Leavenworth, Kansas and a Master's in National Security Strategy from National War College, Fort McNair, Washington, DC. Freitag and his family enjoy living in Janesville and frequent local events and attractions including Rotary Botanical Gardens, Rock County Historical Society, and Rock Aqua Jays' competitions.

Al Hulick, City Administrator for the City of Milton

Al Hulick is Vice Chair of United Way Blackhawk Region's Board of Directors, and serves on the Executive Committee, Finance Committee, and as a community grant investment panel member. Hulick was born and raised in Janesville, WI. Hulick received his undergraduate degree in Business from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, and his Master's Degree in Public Administration from Northern Illinois University. In September 2014, he accepted the position as the City Administrator for the City of Milton. Hulick oversees all operations of the City of Milton including a full-time Public Works and Police Department, as well as a part-time Fire Department. He is also actively involved in the Leadership Development Academy of Rock County and the Special Olympics of Southern Wisconsin. Hulick lives in Milton with his wife and son, and spends his free time on wood working projects, golfing, reading, and playing music.

Ted Rehl, Mayor of South Beloit

Ted Rehl currently serves on United Way Blackhawk Region's Campaign Cabinet. Recently, Rehl successfully completed two, three-year terms on United Way's Board of Directors. He previously served on the former Stateline United Way's Board of Directors and as the organization's Campaign Chairman (see [video](#)) for two years. Prior to being elected as Mayor of South Beloit in April 2015, Rehl's career in education spanned 40 plus years. He and his family moved to northern Illinois when he accepted the position as the Superintendent of Prairie Hill School District, a role he held for 10 years. Prior to that, he was a teacher and principal in Wisconsin schools in the Milwaukee area. In addition to Rehl's support and involvement with United Way, he's also been active in the community as a Rotarian and past Board member of the Roscoe Chamber of Commerce, and recently helped to spearhead South Beloit's Centennial celebration.

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 65 human services programs at 33 nonprofit agencies in Rock County, Wis. and northern Winnebago County, Ill. More information is available at LiveUnitedBR.org.

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