

United Way Blackhawk Region

205 North Main Street, Suite 101
Janesville, WI 53545-3062

Tel 608 757.3040
Fax 608 757.3055
LiveUnitedBR.org

**United Way
Blackhawk Region**



MEDIA RELEASE

Embargoed until 9 a.m. Wed., March 21, 2018

For immediate release:

For additional information contact:

Mary Fanning-Penny, President & CEO

608.314.8422 or mfanning-penny@lubr.org

United Way Blackhawk Region celebrates its donors, volunteers

Honoring Agents of Change breakfast held Wednesday (March 21)

JANESVILLE – United Way Blackhawk Region recognized its corporate supporters, donors, volunteers and community partners Wednesday morning (March 21) with an Agents of Change theme at the annual LIVE UNITED Celebration, held at the Pontiac Convention Center in Janesville.

At Wednesday's breakfast event, United Way's 2018 Board Chair Jon Schlemmer donned a secret agent disguise to assign attendees the mission to give, advocate and volunteer in their local community. United Way announced the awarding of more than 80 workplace campaign awards to local companies and organizations, including the Cornerstone Award, presented to employee workplace campaigns that exceeded \$100,000 in pledges. Receiving the Cornerstone Award this year are ABC Supply Co., Beloit Health System, Kerry, Mercyhealth, and Regal.

NorthStar Medical Radioisotopes, LLC, received the Emerging Campaign Award, in recognition for creating an atmosphere of support for United Way through its inaugural workplace campaign.

United Way Blackhawk Region's 2017 Campaign Champions, Lori Curtis Luther, Mark Freitag, Al Hulick and Ted Rehl shared exciting news at the event.

"We added more than a dozen new corporate partners and mobilized more than 8,000 individual donors," said Freitag. "As proud champions of United Way's annual community campaign, we are thrilled to report we have met our fundraising goal of \$2.5 million dollars."

United Way Blackhawk Region also recognized two volunteers for advocacy and volunteerism. Karen Lisser, executive director of ECHO, was honored as this year's recipient of the Excellence in Advocacy Award. Lisser began working for ECHO 24 years ago and has grown the nonprofit organization from one employee to a thriving hub of 12.

“Lisser’s advocacy is measured in a lifetime of commitment, compassion, determination and knowledge,” Fanning-Penny said. “Her example inspires us to speak up, whether we’re the first brave voice or one in a chorus of many.”

Partner, CPA, and CMA at Baker Tilly, Lynn Gardinier received the Geraldine Hedberg Volunteer of the Year Award. Gardinier has volunteered in various capacities at United Way for more than 13 years. Gardinier is generous with her talents, lending them to the Janesville Performing Arts Center as an officer and board member, Forward Janesville’s board of directors and executive committee, South Central WI American Red Cross as a board member and past chair, the Bert Blain Heart Walk, as a member of Janesville Noon Rotary, St. Mary’s Parish finance committee and the ARISE fundraising committee.

“We thank Lynn Gardinier for her extraordinary commitment to volunteerism, a hallmark of the United Way mission,” Fanning-Penny said. “Gardinier’s leadership is held in the highest regard. Her sense of calm and fairness has provided us all, a true north.”

The annual LIVE UNITED Award, presented to a company that displays exceptional support for the United Way through its workplace campaign, as well as volunteerism, was presented to Beloit Health System.

“Beloit Health System not only attained Cornerstone status for a third time in five years, but ascended to a new plateau in total pledges to United Way Blackhawk Region at more than \$106,000 dollars,” Schlemmer said. “In addition to Cornerstone-level financial support of United Way, the team at Beloit Health System continues to lend its volunteer support participating in the annual Day of Caring, on United Way’s Board of Directors and various committees.”

More than 300 United Way supporters attended the LIVE UNITED Celebration, which included a poignant vocal performance by Beloit Memorial High School student, Jacquell Jolly. To learn more about how you can become an agent of change, visit LiveUnitedBR.org.

###

About United Way Blackhawk Region

United Way Blackhawk Region mobilizes the caring power of communities to create lasting positive changes in people’s lives by addressing the underlying causes of the most significant local issues. United Way provides financial and human resources to 62 human services programs at 28 nonprofit agencies in the Blackhawk Region to help children and youth succeed, improve access to health care, promote self-sufficiency and strengthen families. More information about United Way Blackhawk Region is available at LiveUnitedBR.org.

United Way Blackhawk Region's 2017 Campaign Awards

Cornerstone Award

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

Champions Club

Blackhawk Propane
First National Bank & Trust Co.
School District of Milton
SSI Technologies
Taylor Company
Union Bank & Trust Co.

Gold Award

Alliant Energy
American Control Electronics
Baker Tilly
Bank of Milton
Beloit Box Board Co.
Beloit Meals on Wheels
Blackhawk Bank
Culver's of Beloit
Electrol Specialties Company
Epilepsy Foundation Heart of Wisconsin
Finley Buick GMC
First Community Bank
Hormel Foods
Janesville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
Johnson Bank
RSM US
Ryeco
Senior Services Plus Health Care
Siepert & Co.
SSI Technologies
United Parcel Service
United Way Blackhawk Region
WCLO-WJVL
Wegner CPAs

Silver Award

Blackhawk Community Credit Union
Blackhawk Propane
BMO Harris Bank
Century 21 Affiliated-Janesville
Community Action

Data Dimensions
Edgerton Community Outreach
First National Bank & Trust Co.
Gateway Community Bank
Glacier's Edge Council Boy Scouts of America
HUFCOR
Janesville Gazette
North American Tool
Nowlan & Mouat
Project 16:49
Retired & Senior Volunteer Program
Salvation Army-Janesville
Tricor Insurance
US Bank
YMCA of Northern Rock County

Bronze Award

Andritz Paperchine
Angus Young Associates
Boston Store
City of Janesville
Consigny Law Firm
Ecolab
Educators Credit Union
Family Services of Southern WI & Northern IL
Festival Foods
Forward Janesville
HealthNet of Rock County
JP Cullen
Janesville Community Day Care
Janesville Sand and Gravel
Lanair Products
Life Circle
Meier, Wickhem, Lyons & Schulz
North American Pipe
Old National Bank
Rock County Employees
Roethe Pope Roethe
School District of Janesville*
S.M.I.L.E.S.
Seiberling Associates
Taylor Company

The Rock Bar & Grill
Union Bank & Trust Co.
Valmet
Welders Supply Co.
YWCA Rock County
* Based on 2016 campaign

100% Participation Award

Baker Tilly
Beloit Meals on Wheels
Blackhawk Propane
Culver's of Beloit
Edgerton Community Outreach
Epilepsy Foundation Heart of Wisconsin
Finley Buick GMC
Gateway Community Bank
Glacier's Edge Council, Boy Scouts of America
Life Circle
Project 16:49
Retired & Senior Volunteer Program
Ryeco
Salvation Army Janesville
Senior Services Plus Health Care
The Rock Bar & Grill
Tricor Insurance
United Way Blackhawk Region
Wegner CPAs
YMCA of Northern Rock County

Peggy & Ebbie Neese Award of Excellence

Baker Tilly
Regal
United Way Blackhawk Region
Wegner CPAs