

# PRESS RELEASE

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## United Way of Trumbull County Celebrated Their 95 Years

May 17, 2018--United Way of Trumbull County celebrated their 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon on Thursday, May 17, 2018, at The Avalon Inn in Howland. John Walsh, Chairman of the Board, began the meeting by welcoming nearly 300 donors, volunteers and community members in attendance.

Ron Bierman, President of Trumbull Regional Medical Center, the event's Leadership Sponsor took to the podium and addressed the membership stating, "The United Way and Trumbull Regional Medical Center share many similar goals for the community that we serve. The United Way wants to improve the quality of life by assisting with financial support and health care initiatives. Trumbull Regional Medical Center is determined to lower health care costs while improving the overall health of our region. Together, our organizations will make a difference!"

Walsh also thanked Chemical Bank and The Richard & Rhonda Thompson Foundation for their sponsorship.

Together, Ginny Pasha, President of United Way of Trumbull County, and Christine Cope, Director of Resource Development and Marketing for United Way, presented 15 businesses and individuals the following awards:

Rick Demuyneck, Plant Manager of the General Motors Assembly Plant, and Tim O'Hara, Vice President of UAW 1112, accepted the **Give Award** on behalf of the GM Complex who held the largest workplace campaign during 2017. "Our core values include supporting the communities where we live and work, and we appreciate the recognition in Trumbull County," said Demuyneck.

Cope added, "These are challenging times, but we could not be more grateful for the good work General Motors of Lordstown does not only for United Way of Trumbull County, but for many other non-profits throughout our community."

Also receiving the **Give Award** for having 100% employee participation were Trumbull County Probate Court, Stanwade Metal Products and Trumbull County Mental Health & Recovery Board.

Receiving the **Advocate Awards** were *The Cafaro Company*, for being a great partner of United Way, particularly in support of their Reading Great by 8 Literacy Initiative. "Not only has

the Cafaro Foundation supported the initiative financially, but they partnered with us to create a Read 4 Fun event featuring a Seuss-tastic Reading Challenge to Dr. Seuss's Big Birthday Bash at the Eastwood Mall. The event was open to K-2 classrooms countywide.

Also receiving the Advocate Award was *Arconic*, a long-time partner of United Way that is inspiring and encouraging young women (ages 11 through 18) in Trumbull County to consider a career in STEM through their support of the Girls Club program. *Steve Chiaro*, Superintendent of Warren City Schools, received the award for his advocacy for United Way to his staff, to the school board, to the media and to the entire Warren community.

The **Volunteer Award** honors companies and/or individuals who contribute a significant amount of time and effort to the benefit of United Way of Trumbull County. This year's recipients included *Steven Pavlak*, Manager of Respiratory Care at Mercy Health, for his leadership in the campaign and participation with United Way at Work and Read 4 Fun. *Russell Sigworth*, UAW Local 1112 Communications, and *Western Reserve Building Trades* were also awarded for their participation and dedication to United Way at Work. "All three of these recipients were recognized for having one thing in common, when it comes to volunteering, they give it their all and rally their troops to get the job done," Pasha added.

The **Give, Advocate and Volunteer Award** recognizes organizations and/or individuals who demonstrate a very high-level of commitment to the United Way of Trumbull County through a significant personal and/or corporate contribution; advocating for United Way to business associates, family members and friends; and volunteering to help raise awareness of and raise funds for the United Way of Trumbull County. The 2017 recipients of the Give, Advocate and Volunteer Awards were *Greenwood Chevrolet*, *Kent State University Trumbull Campus* and *Melissa Maki* with The Middlefield Banking Company.

A special award, **The Legacy Award**, was presented to the Raymond and Janice Bland Family for the family's generous contribution. Accepting the award for their family were Joyce Brothers and Karen Peterson.

Following the awards, Pasha reviewed the 2017 successes of the organization with the members present:

- The *Ready, Set Go!* summer literacy intervention program, a program for kids transitioning from second to third grade, expanded into Howland School District. A total of five school districts currently have students enrolled in the program. Since the programs introduction in 2014, students' gains remain consistent at 79%.
- ABC Reading Ready program has been restructured into a summer literacy intervention program for students entering first grade. Every student showed improvements in sounds and words with some gains being as much as 14 points based on the HRSIW assessment instrument used by the Warren City School District.
- The Dr. Seuss Day celebration continues to grow throughout Trumbull County School Districts. This past March, 242 kindergarten, first and second grade classrooms participated from 15 school districts.

- The Partnership for Financial Empowerment is a United Way of Trumbull County initiative that provides support in managing limited resources with a focus on veterans, seniors and women. This year, free income tax preparation sites and a Last Chance Saturday served more than 2,500 filers resulting in over \$4 million dollars staying in the hands of those who need it most. The Partnership offered a Financial Fair in February to introduce low-to-moderate income individuals and families to resources available to them.
- United Way of Trumbull County and partner Second Harvest secured funding to open and stock Trumbull County's first pantry located within a school building. Raider Pantry opened at Warren Harding High School in October. Since then, pantries opened in Willard and Jefferson PK-8, where food, personal care items and clothing are available for students in need.
- GuideStar awarded United Way of Trumbull County their Platinum Seal of Transparency. To earn this rating, United Way was required to report extensive organizational information, in-depth financial information and qualitative information about goals, strategies and capabilities; as well as, quantitative information about their results and progress.

Pasha continued by informing the membership of plans for 2018:

- United Way of Trumbull County will begin to implement the new strategic plan.
- Results of a community-wide survey will be revealed this summer.
- The Reading Great by 8 Literacy Initiative will continue to expand with the possibility of 6 additional school districts.
- Additional tax sites will be secured.

Before turning the podium over to partner agencies, Pasha closed by saying, "We serve ALL of Trumbull County, but we cannot do it without you! We need you to join us in that commitment to work together to create sustainable change so that we can build a community where everyone has the opportunity to reach their full potential."

The meeting closed with a special presentation that showcased 7 programs delivered by partner agencies serving people cradle through grave throughout Trumbull County.

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