

Contact: Roxann Sebest, Director of Marketing and Communications



United Way of Youngstown  
and the Mahoning Valley

330.746.8494 or [rsebest@ymvunitedway.org](mailto:rsebest@ymvunitedway.org)

## **PRESS RELEASE - embargo until 6:00**

**p.m.**

### **United Way Annual Meeting Celebrates 2017 with Sold Out Crowd**

April 12, 2018

(Poland, OH) - A sold out crowd of 500 people attended the United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley's Annual Meeting sponsored by Chemical Bank at the Lake Club in Poland, OH. The organization celebrated its achievements of the previous year, 2017, with its donors and volunteers.

"Our Annual Meeting is a chance for us to recognize all the hard work and dedication of our donors and volunteers," said Bob Hannon, President of the United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley. "This year we welcomed a record crowd to the event. This shows the commitment of our community to our work and the work of those who we support through our funding."

United Way recognized the top workplace campaigns from the 2017 Annual Campaign that helped raise more than \$3.1 million. Those companies include: Dearing Compressor and Pump, AT&T, and General Motors Lordstown Complex with UAW #1112 and UAW #1714.

The Frank and Pearl Gelbman Charitable Foundation was recognized as the Top Foundation. Last year, the United Way created the Emerging Leaders Club in which any donor who raised their contribution to \$500 was matched by the Gelbman Foundation.

Volunteers were also recognized for their efforts with both the United Way Annual Campaign as well as United Way led initiatives such as the Success After 6 program. These awards include:

- Campaign Leadership Award - Sue Stricklin and the Simon Roofing Team
- Labor Leadership Award - Laborers Local 125
- Impact Leadership Award - Classic Optical
- Dedicated Service Award
  - Youngstown Firefighters, Local 312

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- Ballet Western Reserve
  
- Volunteer Excellence Award
  - Rick Fryda, Compco Industries
  - The Employees of Vallourec
  - Marne Cario, Compass Family and Community Services
- Rising Star Volunteer Award
  - Jacob Richardson, South Range 7th Grade
  - Nicholas Plunkett, South Range 7th Grade
- Adopt - A - School - Success After 6
  - Chris & Ed Muransky - Youngstown Community School
  - Gloria Jones & Fireline, Inc. In Memory of Roger D. Jones - MLK Jr. Elementary School
  - The DeBartolo Corporation - Williamson Elementary School
  - Huntington Bank - McGuffey Elementary School
  - Ronald McDonald House Charity - Taft Elementary School and Girard Prospect Elementary School

United Way also honors a Board Member who goes above and beyond their responsibilities. This year, they gave the Parker McHenry Board Excellence Award to Becky Wall of Dearing Compressor and Pump. Wall joined the Board in 2014. The award is named after long time United Way Board member Parker McHenry, who still sits on the Board.

During the event, the Board voted in two new members: Michael Schrock, Regional President of Chemical Bank and Mayor Jamael "Tito" Brown, City of Youngstown. They also elected a new Board Chair - Ted Schmidt, Regional President, Youngstown - PNC.

Garry Mrozek, CEO of Hometown Pharmacy Solutions, served as the past Board Chair as well as the 2017 Annual Campaign Chair. Bob Hannon recognized his efforts over the past year as Campaign Chair.

"Garry is a great leader. He not only helped us exceed the \$3 million mark, but he also guided our United Way as the Board Chair for the last two years." said Hannon. "Garry has been a part of our United Way for three decades. We are thankful for his dedication."

Hannon also announced William Shivers, President of Canton and Mahoning Valley Region, Huntington Bank, as the 2018 Campaign Chair.

United Way's Annual Meeting is sponsored by Chemical Bank, the awards are sponsored by AIM Transportation Solutions, the program is sponsored by 42 Event Productions as well as Chris and Ed Muransky and The Lake Club.

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