

**Press Release**  
**For Immediate Release**



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**United Way Celebrates Fundraising and Awards that top \$2 Million Investment in Community Support**

Pensacola, Fla. – June 9, 2016

United Way of Escambia County President and CEO started a Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup> finale celebration of workplace campaign and community investment results saying, “While some of our community indicators in health, education and financial stability have improved over the last year, there is more work to be done and we are humbled that partners remain unified in the approach to solving our complex community problems.” She went on to stress the value of collaboration that would be enhanced by the \$2,265,294 in cash that United Way announced as the amount invested in community partnerships.

Partners were thanked for their dedication to solving challenges that start with educational gaps that lead to financial stability and health concerns. Krieger stated, “While 15.3% is an improvement over past indexes for those 46,000 neighbors and friends who live in poverty, meeting basic needs is a challenge. Eviction, foreclosure and homelessness are one health emergency or natural disaster away for households where 20 percent of our children are impoverished. “We must remain committed to working together to improve health challenges that leave us unfavorably ranked as 59th among Florida’s 67 counties.”

The agencies, donors and supporters who attended the finale event were reminded that working together is the most effective way to solve the challenges that lead to food insecurity, diabetic deaths and domestic violence. “One of the most effective ways to bring positive change to these serious issues is through education of our young people,” said Debbie Calder, executive vice president at Navy Federal.

As a leader who helped launch a cradle to career collective initiative (Achieve Escambia) earlier this year, Calder’s presentation of education grants this evening to 15 local programs was appropriate. There were many reasons to celebrate Thursday night as some of the 259 workplace campaigns that helped raise \$2,058,845 got to see 47 local agency program partners receive investments of \$1 million.

When asked about this year’s 52 percent increase in investments generated by over 3,600 volunteers and partners, John Floyd, Gulf Power Manager of Energy and Efficiency and United Way Board Chair of Community Investment said, “The 66 donors who served on community investment volunteer panels this year spent almost 1,500 hours evaluating the 47 funding applications and allocating the community investment funds to achieve the best return on investment. These volunteers believe in the process and enjoy helping these many great programs make a difference in our community.”

United Way’s support begins with community investment awards, but the giving grows from there. After adding \$1,265,294 to Community Investment Awards, United Way was able to target outcomes that improve community success. Details on funding are as follows:

Thursday night's awards were invested as follows:



Through matches, volunteer labor and collaborative partnerships, United Way is able to create a \$4 return for every \$1 invested. Programs and initiatives supported this year, report helping over 190,000 local citizens.

| Education Awards  | Health Awards  | Financial Stability Awards   |
|---|--|--|
| AMI Kids Pensacola<br>Autism Pensacola<br>Big Brothers Big Sisters of NWFL (2)<br>Boys & Girls Club of the Emerald Coast<br>Be Ready Alliance Coordinating for Emergencies<br>Capstone Adaptive Learning & Therapy<br>Chain Reaction<br>Children's Home Society of Florida<br>Every Child a Reader Escambia<br>Independence for the Blind (2)<br>Pace Center for Girls<br>The Global Corner<br>YMCA of NWFL | Autism Pensacola<br>Baptist Healthcare Foundation<br>Boys & Girls Club of the Emerald Coast<br>Capstone Adaptive Learning & Therapy<br>Children's Home Society<br>Council on Aging of West FL (2)<br>Epilepsy Foundation of FL<br>Gulf Coast Kid's House (2)<br>Health and Hope Clinic<br>Independence for the Blind<br>Lakeview Center<br>Lutheran Services<br>Manna Food Bank, Inc. (2)<br>New Beginnings Group<br>The ARC Gateway (2)<br>YMCA of NWFL | American Red Cross<br>Be Ready Alliance Coordinating for Emergencies<br>Boys & Girls Club of the Emerald Coast<br>Catholic Charities<br>Early Learning Coalition of Escambia<br>FavorHouse of NWFL<br>Goodwill Easter Seals of the Gulf Coast<br>Legal Services of North FL (2)<br>The Salvation Army (2)<br>United Way 2-1-1 NWFL |

As part of the celebration, United Way of Escambia County thanked the workplace campaigns, community donors and partners who made this year's investments possible. This year's top ten campaigns raised \$163,000 more than last year; an 8 percent increase and annual support from Gulf Power Company (\$321,222), Publix Supermarkets (\$299,160) and Ascend Performance Materials (\$197,699) was celebrated in recognition of their status as the top three workplaces.

Oliver Sumlin, Board Chair of the Workplace Campaign added, "Prior to my involvement in the campaign, I had no idea so many local businesses and organizations were so generous in their giving. It says a lot about our community."

Special recognition was given to the following individuals and organizations:

**WORKPLACE CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR AWARD**

1-50 Employees

**Virginia College**

51-100 Employees

**CSL Plasma**

101-199 Employees

**Escambia County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller**

200+ Employees

**Navy Federal Credit Union**

### **SCHOOL SPIRIT OF GIVING AWARDS**

Elementary

**CA Weis**

Middle

**Ransom Middle School**

High

**Northview High School**

Department/Center

**Exceptional Student Education**

### **BUSINESS RECOGNITION BY COMPANY SIZE**

1-99 Employees

**Central Credit Union of Florida**

100-399 Employees

**Publix-Perdido #1296**

400+ Employees

**Escambia County School District**

### **IMAGE AWARD**

**Escambia County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller**

To continue United Way's vital support of our community, this year's Cram the Van school supply drive was kicked off by event attendees. Over 30 partners collected \$106,700 in supplies to support 64 local schools last year. Please call 434-3157 or email [cramthevan@unitedwayescambia.org](mailto:cramthevan@unitedwayescambia.org) to participate.

The celebration ended when Kia Autosport of Pensacola awarded the 2016 KIA SOUL to Jonathon Wiggins. Wiggins is an employee at Armstrong Industries. He has been a Red Feather Leadership donor since 2006. United Way's partners and donors prove that great things happen when we LIVEUNITED! For more information on how United Way is working to make Escambia County a better place for all, please call Naomi at (850) 444-7114 or email [naomi@unitedwayescambia.org](mailto:naomi@unitedwayescambia.org).

*By living core values of serving the community with Integrity, Leadership, Inclusiveness, Volunteerism and Excellence (I LIVE), United Way of Escambia County is working to meet a mission of uniting our community and leveraging resources to improve lives.*

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