

Press Release
For Immediate Release



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United Way Recognizes Community Partners at Annual Meeting

Pensacola, Fla. – August 25, 2016

United Way of Escambia County celebrated annual accomplishments that impacted two out of three Escambia County citizens at First Baptist Church of Pensacola on Thursday. As part of the celebration, guests heard from Jennifer Grove, Community Development Manager at Gulf Power Company. Grove spoke about the interdependence in our community. The topic was perfect for a meeting that boasted the accomplishments of diverse partners who worked to improve lives in Escambia County.

Andrea Krieger, President and CEO of United Way of Escambia County started the meeting with a thought; “Great things happened because we chose to LIVE UNITED.” We see this statement to be true when we look at the local impacts made in Education, Health and Financial Stability because donors and community members chose to give \$3.8 million and over 40,000 hours of volunteer labor that was invested in outcomes.

United Way thanked special partners for helping leverage \$3.8M in funds to create a \$14.8M impact on the community. Every dollar donated, was effectively used to create a \$4.78 return on investment. More than 190,000 local men, women, and children were assisted because United Way was here to fund local programs and leverage community resources to best serve Escambia County citizens.

Chair David Peaden was honored to recognize the stellar contributions of following individuals and organizations:

RAYELL IRISH, COLOR A BRIGHTER WORLD: Stacey Kostevicki, Gulf Coast Kid’s House

UNITED WAY PARTNER AGENCY OF THE YEAR: Boys and Girls Clubs of the Emerald Coast

BUSINESS PARTNER OF THE YEAR: Gulf Power Company

UNITED WAY SERVICE AWARD: Deb Moore, Community Advocate

DISTINGUISHED COMMUNITY SERVICE: Pam and Harry Schwartz

VOLUNTEER GROUP OF THE YEAR: Publix Supermarkets

FREE TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: Marie Strevey

DAY OF CARING VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: Jamie Cochran, Lutheran Services Florida

United Way leadership shared their gratitude for the 3,637 community volunteers who donated over 41,738 hours of service to make this work possible. Serving through initiatives like Day of Caring, Free Tax Assistance

Programs, Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Cram the Van and ReadingPals, volunteer labor was equivalent to a \$962,884 gift of time.

Because we chose to LIVE UNITED, \$1M in grants were awarded to 47 programs and 31 local nonprofit agencies to positively impact the Education, Health and Financial Stability of Escambia County. \$625,545 was given to support local families impacted by 2014 floods and the two EF3 tornados that devastated our community in February of this year. \$417,838 was designated by donors to support 152 agencies and \$221,327 went to community initiatives that included Achieve Escambia, Christmas Wishes, ReadingPals, Communities Caring at Christmas, Cram the Van, Congressional Art Awards, HSAC, Publix Emergency Fund, Regency Hospice and Tummy Bundles.

At the annual meeting, United Way announced the 2016-17 Board of Directors who will lead community work are as follows: **Officers:** David Peaden (Chair), Yvette McLellan (Chair Elect), Cathy England (Treasurer), Jo McArthur (Secretary). **The committee chairs** are Tammy Davies (Women's Leadership Council Chair), Cedric Durre (Co-Chair Community Investment), John Floyd (Community Investment Chair), Wes Hudgens (Nominating Chair), Jack Lowrey (Campaign Chair), Trip Maygarden (Community Impact Chair), Amy Miller (Campaign Co-chair), Deb Moore (Advocacy/211 Chair) and Tim Putman (United Way Agency Director's Association Chair). **Board Members elected to continued service included:** Meri Asmar, Brett Bennett, KC Gartman, Brian Matson, Tim Putman, Michelle Scaglione, Matthew Shook, Oliver Sumlin, Jonathan Taylor, Malcolm Thomas, Bruce Vredenburg and Patrice Whitten. **Board Members serving their first term for United Way include:** Brian Baumgardner, Scott Ginnetti, Genevieve Harper, John Hosman, John Isbell, Jo McArthur and Tim Stronko.

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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