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News Release



United Way of Wyandotte County Inc., P.O. Box 17-17-1042, Kansas City, KS 66117-0242

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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United Way awards volunteers of the year

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – The spotlight radiantly showered its golden light on a group of deserving people unaccustomed to the limelight—community volunteers. Last month at the Reardon Convention Center, [19 volunteers](#), each from different [United Way of Wyandotte County agencies](#) were honored as their agency’s volunteer of the year.

The honorary dinner was sponsored by Brotherhood Bank & Trust and hosted by [United Way of Wyandotte County's](#) volunteer center. Each honoree was featured in a short film and given a trophy for their service.

These community volunteers are the prototypes that every non-profit organization desires. Diane Hentges, Director of the Volunteer Center for United Way of Wyandotte County, describes them as people who care for the sick, feed the hungry, hug the lonely, listen attentively, mentor a child, help with homework, and provide leadership.

“Volunteers are important to agencies and communities because they help agencies fulfill their mission; especially, when dollars are in short supply; volunteer hours allow agencies to stretch limited resources,” she said.

LIVE UNITED is a community call to action, and these volunteers are prime examples of how they have answered that call through giving, advocating and most importantly, volunteering.

The full listing of honorees include: Patricia Brune for YWCA; Kay Clayton for MHAH; Tom Cooley for Boy Scouts of America; Michelle Franks-Smith for Boys and Girls Clubs; Helen Gibson for Cancer Action; Bryan Gutierrez for American Red Cross; Sister Jean Highberger for Duchesne Clinic; Julie Mayne for Catholic Charities; Joyce Molina for Economic Opportunity Foundation; Tyson Moore for Ozanam; Chester Owens for YouthBuild; David Pierson for KVC Behavioral Healthcare; Anissa Reed for Mt. Carmel Redevelopment Corp.; Betty Robinson for CASA; Stephanie Spilker for AYS; Mitch Stevenson for Sunflower House; Jim Taylor for El Centro; Phyllis Towne for Bethel Neighborhood Center; and Clayton Westgate for Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Contact [Diane Hentges](#) at United Way of Wyandotte County’s [volunteer center](#) to find out how to LIVE UNITED through volunteering or call United Way at (913) 371-3674.

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About United Way of Wyandotte County

United Way of Wyandotte County, a non-profit human service organization founded in 1921, is dedicated to increasing the community’s understanding of human needs and mobilizing resources to meet those needs. Through its annual community campaign, United Way supports 53 social service programs provided by 29 Wyandotte County and area agencies.

LIVE UNITED is a call to action to give, advocate and volunteer in our community in order to improve the common good in three key areas: education, income and health. To learn more about United Way and how to LIVE UNITED, visit [United Way of Wyandotte County's website](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages.