

Not an Annual Meeting, But a Celebration

<http://www.unitedwaylincoln.org/not-an-annual-meeting-but-a-celebration/>

May 9, 2016 [United Way](#)

The event is called an annual meeting, but in reality the 400 supporters who gathered at the Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel on April 18 were ready to celebrate a big number, \$7,045,550—the final total of the fundraising campaign for United Way of Lincoln and Lancaster County and Community Health Charities in 2015 led by campaign co-chairs, Bill Mueller and Kim Robak.

Commenting on changing trends in fundraising, Mueller said that workplace campaigns are the heart and soul of United Way. “We need all hands on board to be successful and to help us meet the many significant needs of our neighbors.”

Also on the plus side, Robak noted that the successful campaign will allow the 60 funded United Way and Community Health Charities agencies to receive support for their work in addressing critical issues. “But, there are still many unmet needs,” she noted.

Among those receiving special recognition was Nola Derby-Bennett, executive director of The HUB – Central Access Point for Young Adults, who received the Spirit of United Way Award. The President’s Award went to Wells Fargo which was accepted by Stuart Bartruff, Nebraska Business Banking regional manager. Norris School District was recognized with a New Partner award for joining the campaign for the first time in 2015. In addition, Union Bank & Trust was acknowledged for having the largest contribution in unrestricted funds and the State of Nebraska earned honors for raising the highest dollar amount.

Agency speakers who volunteer to tell stories of lives improved or changed because of agency service were recognized. “They put a face and a story behind every dollar donated,” said Mueller as he presented Agency Speaker of the Year awards to Jennifer Koolen from the Child Advocacy Center and Brad Anderson, who represented the Alzheimer’s Association, Nebraska Chapter.

In closing remarks, Nick Cusick, president of the 2015 board of directors, said the agencies that partner with United Way and Community Health Charities are doing amazing work on the front lines. “You are the reason we do what we do each year, to allow you to keep doing the powerful and imperative work for the people in Lincoln and Lancaster County.”

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