

April 28, 2017

Marian Andersen Receives United Way of the Midlands' "Excellence in Impact" Award For Dedication to Our Community's Strength

In recognition of a lifetime of service to the Omaha-Council Bluffs metro area, the state of the Nebraska and our nation, Marian Andersen has received the "Excellence in Impact" award from United Way of the Midlands.

Mrs. Andersen and her late husband, Omaha World-Herald Publisher Harold "Andy" Andersen, were local founders and inaugural members of United Way's Tocqueville Society, a leadership giving group whose members give \$10,000 or more annually. More than 100 guests were on hand as Mrs. Andersen accepted the award at a special United Way event at Founders One-Nine in Downtown Omaha on April 26.

Ken Stinson, Chair Emeritus of Peter Kiewit Sons', Inc. presented the award to Mrs. Andersen. He noted that Marian Andersen has made a measurable impact in many areas of life in the Omaha metro, the state of Nebraska and at the national level in the areas of education, health, history and the arts. Among her many accomplishments, she was the first woman to lead the boards of the University of Nebraska Foundation and the Heartland Chapter of the American Red Cross, and was recognized in 2016 with the Nebraska "Sower's Award in the Humanities".

"Marian has long been a passionate and accomplished volunteer, both in our state and nationally, in her support for the arts and humanities and in her commitment to support those among us who are less fortunate" said Stinson.

"Together, she and Harold asked friends, colleagues and community newcomers to share their good fortune for the benefit of a stronger community. On behalf of those gathered here this evening and for the thousands of less fortunate in our community who are the beneficiaries of United Way support, we thank you for your leadership and your lifelong commitment to making our community a better place for all. "She (Marian) is a truly great and gracious citizen of our community and our state. "

In her remarks, Mrs. Andersen recounted a childhood memory of putting change into a cup passed around at school for the Red Feather-Community Chest campaign, a precursor of today's United Way. She later ran a United Way women's division in Omaha that was a door-to-door effort. When 1987 United Way Board Chair Del Weber asked the Andersens to form and lead the Tocqueville Society in Omaha, she said "we were very intrigued."

The first year, they increased the membership from three to ten. By the end of their term as Tocqueville chairs, there were 49. "I'm absolutely dazzled today with the total of 263 Tocqueville members. I would put that up against any city of our size, shows the spirit of our vibrant community and commitment to United Way which Andy and I have always felt is the cornerstone of giving in our community."

United Way of the Midlands' president and CEO Shawna Forsberg thanked the Andersens for their commitment, as leaders and donors. From their founding of the local Tocqueville Society to today, the group has invested more than \$84 million, which has resulted in the delivery of 1.9 million human services to neighbors in need across the Omaha-Council Bluffs metro area.

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“Our community is truly blessed that Marian and Andy had the vision and belief in the community that led to the creation of the Tocqueville Society,” said Forsberg.

About the United Way of the Midlands

Thanks to donors, volunteers and community partners, United Way of the Midlands is not only focused on addressing our community's human needs today; it is focused on what can be, and what should be. It is building on today's strong partnerships to create even more comprehensive human service efforts tomorrow, so our community can solve some of the root causes of poverty. United Way is community-based, community-focused. Thanks to those who share their strength, United Way is COMMUNITY STRONG. We invite you to visit www.UnitedWayMidlands.org for more information.