

UNITED WAY OF THE MIDLANDS CONTACT:

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United Way of the Midlands' Annual Meeting Set for October 19th

United Way of the Midlands will report back to the community and share goals for future impact at its Annual Meeting and Luncheon on Friday, October 19th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Omaha Hilton Hotel, 10th and Cass streets.

UWM's mission is to impact poverty by focusing the efforts of many to help our neighbors stand strong – by addressing basic needs, and fostering success in the classroom and the workplace.

UWM's 2018 "Citizens of the Year" will be celebrated at the event – Paul and Annette Smith:

Paul is a member of the Board of Stakeholders of Tenaska. Tenaska is one of the largest private, independent energy companies in the United States. Mr. Smith served in a variety of leadership roles during his 25-year tenure with Tenaska. Prior to his retirement from day to day operations, Smith served as the company's Vice-Chairman. Mr. Smith earned a B.S. in mechanical engineering from Iowa State University and a M.B.A. from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Mr. Smith currently serves as the Chairman of the Board of the Joslyn Art Museum. He is also past Chairman of the boards of Film Streams, Omaha Conservatory of Music and the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts. Mr. Smith also serves or has served as either a member of the board of directors or committees of Opera Omaha, Omaha Community Foundation, United States Artists and the Whitney Museum National Committee.

Annette is an alum of Dana College, where she obtained a bachelor's degree in psychology and business administration. She also holds a degree in architecture from the University of Nebraska. Mrs. Smith currently serves as the President of the Board of Directors of Boys and Girls Club of the Midlands. She is also past Chair of the Women's Leadership Council for the United Way of the Midlands. As an established community volunteer, she serves or has served on the board of directors or committees of the College of Saint Mary, OpenSky Policy Institute, Kent Bellows Studio and Center for Visual Arts, Nebraska Academic Decathlon Foundation, Whitney National Committee and Omaha Area Youth Orchestra.

Together, Mr. and Mrs. Smith work to promote the arts and support youth development in the greater Omaha community. Also ardent supporters of the humanities, the Smiths were recipients of the Governor's 2015 Sower Award. In keeping with their philanthropic interests, the Smiths founded the Omaha Conservatory of Music, which is known nationally for its program String Sprouts, and Impact Circle – Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands. The Smiths have also been instrumental in the origination of the annual events Louder than a Bomb Youth Poetry Festival and the Great Plains Theatre Conference. They remain active supporters of these endeavors and many others which serve the Omaha community.

In addition to their philanthropic interests, the Smiths are lead investors in the Capitol District, a mixed-use development located at 10th Street and Capitol Ave. in Omaha. They also lead development and investment in Millwork Commons, a mixed-use development at 12th and Nicholas streets in Omaha. The Smiths are most proud of their three children Louis, Charlie and Greg and together they enjoy art, architecture, traveling and many outdoor activities.

To recognize those companies who went above and beyond to support UWM during the 2017 campaign year, UWM will present its first annual "Corporate Campaign Recognition Awards" at the meeting: "Volunteer Organization of the Year," "New Business Partner of the Year" and "Corporate Partner of the Year." A news release will be sent out following the event with details on the award winners.

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.