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**Trinity Augesen, Jerry Bambenek,
Tony Jurgens, and Rochelle Murphy
Join United Way of Hastings Board**

(HASTINGS, MN) The United Way of Hastings (UWH) welcomes Trinity Augesen, Jerry Bambenek, Tony Jurgens, and Rochelle Murphy to the Board of Directors.

Trinity grew up near Hayward, Wisconsin, before beginning his law enforcement career with the federal government as a US Border Patrol Agent in New Mexico. After five and a half years on the southern border, Trinity transferred to the Twin Cities as a Customs and Border Protection Officer at the Minneapolis St. Paul International Airport. In addition to his work experience, Trinity has a Master of Business Administration and Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice.

Over the years, Trinity has worked with various community stakeholders through engagement opportunities and coalitions. He has participated as a volunteer firefighter and Explorer Adviser, and is currently serving on the Hastings Public Safety Advisory Commission. Trinity, his wife, and two children moved to Hastings two and a half years ago because of its warm atmosphere and close community spirit. In his free time, Trinity enjoys long-distance running with his family, game nights with friends, and engaging in community events.

Tony Jurgens is a familiar name as he was recently re-elected as the State Representative for District 54B which includes Hastings, Nininger Township as well as Afton, Denmark Township and part of Cottage Grove. Tony grew up in Watertown, South Dakota, then graduated from Southwest Minnesota State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. He is an independent insurance agent and serves as a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church where he is a past member of the Pastoral Council and former Chair of the Finance Council. He currently serves as Grand Knight of the Hastings Knights of Columbus Council 1600 and is a member of the Regina Senior Living Board of Directors. Tony is a past member of the Cottage Grove Economic Development Authority, Cottage Grove Public Works Commission, Cottage Grove Public Services Commission, Cottage Grove Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, Cottage Grove Charter Commission and Washington County Library Board.

Tony and his wife, Dawn, reside in Cottage Grove. They have two grown daughters, Alexa and Tori, who both live in Hastings and graduated from Hastings High School. Tony has been impressed with the outreach of UWH services, especially for the benefit of kids. Specifically, fighting childhood hunger is a passion for Tony and the Food4Kids program directly addresses that issue in Hastings.

Rochelle received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee and Master of Arts degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from the

Minnesota School of Professional Psychology. She has worked in the mental health field since 2009 and currently works in Dakota County as a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. Through her education and work, Rochelle has learned a lot about different issues people struggle with and what best supports the health and healing of individuals, families and communities. She discovered the importance of looking at the big picture in trying to understand a presenting problem and in the formation of a plan to promote sustaining change. She has had clients who reside in Hastings from several different marginalized groups which has given her an insight to the needs. This includes experiences with the foster care system, chemical dependency, trauma survivors, those in poverty, and those from minority ethnic backgrounds. Rochelle has seen firsthand the suffering of people from a variety of different backgrounds, their needs and services that have benefited them, including the services UWH provides.

Rochelle, her husband, and two children (a kindergartener and 8th grader in Hastings Public Schools), have lived in Hastings for seven years. Rochelle and her family enjoy their home in the forest and getting into nature, along with her family's two much-loved dogs. Her family was drawn to Hastings because of its beauty, pace of life and small-town community feel.

Jerry grew up on a farm outside Arcadia, Wisconsin. He graduated from University of Wisconsin River Falls with a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education. After graduation and serving in the military, Jerry worked for Farm Credit. Jerry furthered his education by receiving his Master of Science in Agricultural Economics from the University of Minnesota, and went on to work for a software provider that helped farm businesses with their accounting needs. In recent years, Jerry's work role has involved giving back to the community. Jerry's involvement includes being Treasurer for Hastings Total Life Care Center, Financial Secretary for Hastings Knights of Columbus, Campaign Treasurer for Tony Jurgens Campaign Committee, Membership Secretary for the Minnesota International Harvester Collectors Club, and Accounting Consultant for St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish.

Jerry and his wife, Mary Ann, are long-time residents of Hastings, having moved here in 1969. They have two adult children who were raised in Hastings. Their son now lives in White Bear Lake and their daughter, son-in-law, and four grandchildren live in Chanhassen.

"The wide-ranging backgrounds of Trinity, Jerry, Tony, and Rochelle will enhance decision making of the UWH Board," said Mari E. Mellick, CAE, Executive Director. "The new members will be assets to the UWH's Vision Planning process as we finalize the impact areas and focus for UWH for the coming years."

The UWH is an independent United Way that has worked for over 50 years serving Hastings and the surrounding rural communities within Independent School District #200. Its mission is to build partnerships to improve the lives of people in our community. Donations are accepted year-round. For more information about the UWH and the agencies it funds, visit www.unitedwayofhastings.org.

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