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United Way of Hastings Hosts Leadership Recognition Event and Announces 2019 Funded Grant Recipients

(Hastings, MN) On March 27, 2019, the United Way of Hastings (UWH) Board of Directors hosted their annual campaign leadership breakfast. This event celebrates the financial leadership of local businesses and gives them an opportunity to meet recipients of their contributions. These recipients are the 2019 UWH Funded Partner Agencies.

The breakfast brought together top business donors and leaders from funded agencies. Each grant recipient had an opportunity to share how UWH funding will be used, and the impact it will have on people in Hastings. "Providing a forum where businesses who contribute to UWH and agencies that provide services via UWH funding can gather and talk is powerful," said Mari E. Mellick, CAE, Executive Director. "When we bring together business and nonprofit leaders, we're giving them an opportunity to learn from each other. People talking face to face gives added depth to the grant process. And, we are so fortunate to have businesses and employees who contribute to our community at top levels."

Pam Oeffler, Director of Human Resources at Smead Manufacturing, was the business speaker this year. She discussed the history of Smead Manufacturing and its long-standing support for Hastings. The UWH and Smead have partnered for over 50 years to serve the needs in Hastings. Community support and employee giving are hallmarks of Smead Manufacturing.

Mike Tappella, Hastings High School graduate and recent University of Minnesota graduate, was the impact speaker. Mike stressed the importance of UWH's Helping Kids Succeed (HKS) model of building webs of support. Although Mike did not grow up in a traditional family structure, he shared that he was fortunate to have adult anchors - trusted adults - who were supportive throughout his life. Mike encouraged the attendees to build webs of support for the young people they know.

The UWH's 2019 Funded Partner Agencies are:

- 360 Communities
 - Lewis House - Domestic abuse shelter
 - Partners for Success® - Bridges school and home
- Boy Scouts, Northern Star Council
 - Scouting activities and mentoring
- DARTS
 - Older adult home services
- Friends of the Mississippi River
 - Stewardship of Mississippi River banks with youth and adults, youth development activities
- Hastings Community Education
 - Disability Program - Social, educational, and recreational activities for individuals with disabilities
- Hastings Schools
 - Elementary Schools – Summer school snacks
 - High School Field Biology - Environmental stewardship with youth and adults
 - Middle School Positive Behavior - Reinforcement of positive behavior
- Legal Assistance of Dakota County
 - Family legal assistance
- ProAct
 - Job training, employment, life skills and enrichment for youth and adults with disabilities

With an annual budget of approximately \$300,000, UWH's main source of funding is from employees who contribute donations via payroll deductions at work. Many businesses match employee contributions. The top workplace giving business leaders recognized at the event were: 3M, Coborn's, Dakota County, Independent School District #200, Intek Plastics, Smead Manufacturing, and Xcel Energy.

Each fall during UWH's annual giving campaign, area businesses are asked to make contributions at giving levels that are signified by the iconic Hastings bridges. Arch Bridge Community Leaders make contributions at the \$1,000 level and the following leaders were recognized: Coldwell Banker Burnet—Susan Bezdicek, Elm Salon, Hastings Area Rotary Club, Gary and Susan Hoffman & Denny and Lynne McNamara, Intek Plastics, Premier Banks, Storm Creek, and VFW Post 1210. The Blue Bridge Community Leaders make contributions at the \$500 level and the following leaders were recognized: Conzemius Co., Edward Jones – Abra Hovgaard Agency, Merchants Bank, Minnesota Coaches—Hastings Bus Co., Schommer Insurance, Schwebel, Goetz & Sieben, State Farm Insurance—Steve Johnson Agency, and Weis Builders, Inc.

The UWH also funds community support programs outside of its traditional grants process:

- Food 4 Kids - Weekend food packs for students
- Hastings Beyond the Yellow Ribbon - Military support for families
- Helping Kids Succeed - Youth and adults building webs of support
- Imagination Library - Age-specific books for children
- LIVE UNITED Scholarship - Youth scholarship
- Student Hastings Impact Program, AmeriCorps Promise Fellows - Fellows provide student support
- United Way 2-1-1 24/7 Help Line - resource and referral

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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