

Improving lives in Vanderburgh, Warrick & Spencer Counties

NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## United Way of Southwestern Indiana holds 2015 Annual Meeting

United Way of Southwestern Indiana held their 2015 Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition Breakfast, Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at Eykamp Hall on the University of Evansville campus. United Way also announced their new board members: Michael Bryant, Jon Goldman-Kahn, Dees, Donovan Kahn, Gretchen Muchnick-FC Tucker/Emge Realty, Phil Wahl-Atlas World Group and Dwight Hamilton-Fifth Third Bank.

Awards are presented to companies and individuals who give their time and talent in service to others. These awards are presented in three categories: GIVE, ADVOCATE and VOLUNTEER. The GIVE award recipients announced were Payne Wealth Partners and Old National Bank. The ADVOCATE award recipients Anna Hargis, Mike Sutton, Brad Ellsworth, Watez Phelps and Clay Sills. Volunteer awards went to Len Winiger, Annie Tunley and Jared Blanton. Carol Braden-Clarke stated, *“We can’t do what we do without our volunteers who serve in so many ways to help us improve the lives in Southwestern Indiana.”*

The “Spirit of United Way” Award for a company went to Hilliard Lyons and Marian Weilert Sauvey for individual. Hilliard Lyons received the award because of their strong giving history and involvement with United Way. They had a 25% increase in company giving, 100% participation and their employees volunteer with many United Way programs.

Marian Weilert Sauvey was awarded the “Spirit of United Way” due to her strong support and commitment to United Way. Weilert-Sauvey served as United Way treasurer and helped United Way establish their endowment.

President Carol Braden-Clarke presented the “Niel Ellerbrook Community Service Award” to Barbara Hamlow. Hamlow has been a United Way volunteer for over 50 years and has been active in Lutherans for Habitat, Great Expectations, a Christmas gift program for families in need, League of Women Voters, prison ministry and civil right initiatives.

## GIVE, ADVOCATE and VOLUNTEER Award Honoree Descriptions:

### GIVE

**Old National Bank**-Employees increased their giving this year by 32%. Old National employees also give their time serving on United Way's Board, Fund Distribution volunteers, VITA volunteers, Young Leaders, Day of Caring and participated in our Spring into Caring Food Drive.

**Payne Wealth Partners**-Their company had 100% participation, was a top-donating company for the Spring into Caring Food Drive and volunteered for Day of Caring.

### ADVOCATE

**Anna Hargis**-Anna chairs the Association of United Way of Southwestern Indiana's Association of Directors, a member of the Young Leaders United Steering Committee and is committed and vocal advocate of United Way.

**Mike Sutton**-The founder of United Way of Southwestern Indiana's Day of Caring and a long-term dedicated supporter of United Way.

**Brad Ellsworth**- Brad serves on the State 211 Partnership Board and has been a strong advocate for getting funding for 211 in the State Budget. He also serves on the United Way Board, and Campaign Cabinet.

**Clay Sills**- Clay was in the founding group of volunteers for United Way's VITA program. Clay also has been involved with Young Leaders United serving on the steering committee to now serving as a Co-Chair of this group.

**Watez Phelps**-He has been a long-time supporter and Advocate for United Way and served as a Fund Distribution volunteer a few years ago. He was also instrumental in starting the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) program. FAFSA program to assist high school students and their families in completing the sometimes challenging FAFSA online form.

### VOLUNTEER

**Len Winiger**-Len has been with UWSWI for around 30 years and serves on the Finance committee, Community Impact Cabinet, Endowment Distribution Committee and is a former Board member.

**Annie Tunley**-Ms. Annie has made it her mission to devote her time helping other people. From VITA, to mailings, posing for billboard pictures, campaign video, she will do anything in her power to help United Way and its partner agencies.

**Jared Blanton**-He joined the Fund Distribution process in 2008. He has brought unusual insight as programs were reviewed and as a result in 2010 he became the panel chairperson and still holds that position today.