



Sioux Empire United Way

News Release

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For immediate release

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Sioux Empire United Way Recognizes Community Leadership

SIOUX FALLS, SD – Sioux Empire United Way held its annual Thank You Event on **Wednesday, February 18** at the **Holiday Inn City Centre**. Six individuals and three companies received awards at the event.

The following community awards were given out during the event: Recipients are bolded. *Additional information regarding the award and recipients is attached.*

- David Birkeland Memorial Award – given to the business or professional leader who most exemplifies David Birkeland's involvement in our community. – **Rod Carlson, Sanford Health**
- Larry Oppold Memorial Award – given to a human service professional for outstanding dedication to his or her work. – **Hugh Grogan, Minnehaha County Human Services**
- Helen E. (Oppold) Blair Memorial Award – given to an individual whose work in human services, law enforcement, education, or church based fields towards child abuse prevention and early intervention is exemplary. – **Sheryl Barnett, Volunteers of America-Dakotas**

- Heart Club Philanthropist of the Year – given to a Heart Club member, who has demonstrated active involvement, and has also encouraged or influenced others to contribute. – **Dick Birath, First PREMIER Bank/PREMIER Bankcard**
- Rich Garry Rookie of the Year – given to a first-time Sioux Empire United Way volunteer who has stepped up and made a tremendous impact in their role, helping to fulfill the mission of Sioux Empire United Way. – **Jill Nelson, Citi**
- Volunteer of the Year – given to a Sioux Empire United Way volunteer who selflessly and generously gives of his or her time and talents to help fulfill the mission of the Sioux Empire United Way. – **Sue Aguilar**
- Business of the Year – given to three companies or organizations, based on employee numbers that have greatly benefited the community through its generosity and its employee involvement in Sioux Empire United Way. – **1-100 Employees: CorTrust Bank, 101-500 Employees: Home Federal Bank, 501+ Employees: First PREMIER/PREMIER Bankcard**

Sioux Empire United Way also recognized more than 1,000 volunteers at the event. The luncheon offered volunteers the chance to sample signature donated soups from the following local restaurants: Leonardo's Café, Minervas, Olive Garden, Westward Ho Country Club, and Wild Sage Grille. Salads, bread baskets, and an ice-sculpture were donated by the Holiday Inn City Centre.

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