



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 16** 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. – **Tom Simmons, Midcontinent Communications**
- Larry Oppold Memorial Award – given to a human service professional for outstanding dedication to his or her work. – **Anne Rieck McFarland, SD Achieve**
- 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. – **Colleen Brazil, Child's Voice**
- 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. – **Larry Ritz, Eide Bailly LLP**

- 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. – **Aaron Knigge, Midco**

Connections

- 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. – **Jeri Breck, RSArchitects**
- 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: Reliamax Insurance, 101-500 Employees: MidcoConnections, 501+ Employees: John Morrell & Company**

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 Whisk & Chop. Salads, bread baskets, and an ice-sculpture were donated by the Holiday Inn City Centre.

For more information please contact Brandi Miller, Sioux Empire United Way Marketing Director, at 605-336-2095.

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Information:

What: Sioux Empire United Way Complimentary Recognition Event

Date: Wednesday, February 16

Time: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Program begins at 12noon
Award recipients will be available for pictures and comments directly following the program.

Location: Holiday Inn City Centre
Downtown Sioux Falls

Featuring: Richard Molseed, Sioux Empire United Way Board Chair
Avera McKennan Hospital & University Health Center
Sioux Empire United Way Staff
Corporate and Individual Leaders

For More Information:

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*Will set up volunteer interviews and provide additional organizational information as needed.