

For Immediate Release

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Pikes Peak United Way announces winners of annual awards honoring outstanding community members, local organizations

Colorado Springs, July 9, 2020 — Pikes Peak United Way would like to announce the winners of awards recognizing volunteers and organizations that have had a tremendous impact on our community over the past year. These individuals are usually honored during our annual Community Celebration event, which is held each summer at the end of our campaign year. Because of COVID-19, we will recognize our winners via video on PPUW social media.

The award winners have all gone above and beyond in their dedication to Pikes Peak United Way's mission of strengthening the Pikes Peak region by improving youth success and family stability.

The **S. Jerrard Smith Award** goes to Becky Medved. The award is presented to a person who embodies qualities of community engagement and collaboration — someone who envisions the big picture and strives to make the Pikes Peak region a better place to live and work through their actions on key initiatives. Mrs. Medved has been a loyal supporter of Pikes Peak United Way, serving on the board and in an advisory role for many years. Her commitment to our community is unwavering.

The **Spirit of Caring Award** recognizes companies that have raised money for Pikes Peak United Way through workplace campaigns, which allow employees to give through payroll deductions. This year, it goes to three companies.

Small company: Blazer Electric Supply Company
Medium company: Kinder Morgan
Large company: City of Colorado Springs

Pikes Peak United Way's Most Valuable Player Award goes to Susan Wheelan, Director of El Paso County Public Health, who led masterfully through the COVID-19 pandemic. Her work on teen suicide prevention and youth substance abuse prevention have had great impact in El Paso County. When you blend heart and experience, you change lives.

We also would like to recognize five **dedicated volunteers**: John Fandel, Corrie Smith, Gail Cullen, Michelle Talarico and Kerstin Pohina.

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About Pikes Peak United Way Pikes Peak United Way works to advance the common good, creating opportunities for a better life for all by focusing on the three key quality of life building blocks — education, income and health. Pikes Peak United Way creates long-lasting community change by addressing the underlying causes that prevent progress in these areas. For more information about Pikes Peak United Way, please visit ppunitedway.org.