



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

United Way Announces New Board Appointees to Strengthen Leadership and Community Impact

Kennewick, WA – United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties is pleased to announce the appointment of its 2025 Officers of the Board of Directors, effective immediately. These Board members bring a diverse array of skills, experiences, and a shared passion for advancing the mission of United Way to improve the lives of local kids and strengthen our communities.

The new Board Officers represent a broad cross-section of expertise, and their combined knowledge will play a critical role in guiding United Way's strategy, fundraising, and initiatives to address the most pressing needs in communities across the region.

"We are thrilled to have these three exceptional individuals lead the work of our Board of Directors," said Dr. LoAnn Ayers, President & CEO of United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties. "Their leadership and dedication to our community will be invaluable as they help our United Way continue to drive meaningful change for local kids and families in need." The new Board appointees are:



Laura Eder, 2025 Board Chair – Laura is the Vice President of Production for Ste Michelle Wine Estates and has been with the company for almost 20 years. In 2020, Laura was recognized as United Way's Volunteer of the Year for her commitment to outstanding volunteer service, sustained service, and innovative support for the organization's mission. Laura has been an active volunteer with our local United Way in several capacities since 2018 including as a founding member of United Way's Young Professionals Society and Festival of Trees Committee.



Scott Booth, 2025 Chair Elect & Secretary – Scott is the Operations Director at Hanford Tank Waste Operations & Closure (H2C). In 2016, Scott participated in the first annual Race Toward a Stronger Community, a fundraiser in support of his company's United Way Campaign, where he took the gold medal. Scott also supports Atlas Free and completed a hiking journey across Washington to raise money to help set people free from sex trafficking. He joined the United Way Board in 2018 and has served as Chair of our Administration Committee and Board Treasurer.



Jeff Markillie, 2025 Treasurer – Jeff is the Business Director at Amentum where he has worked for nearly a decade. Outside of work and serving as a chair of our United Way's Administration Committee, Jeff enjoys hiking with family throughout the Inland Northwest and performing with the Mid-Columbia Mastersingers, where he has served as the past President. Jeff has a Master of Engineering Management from Washington State University, is a certified Project Management Professional, and is a veteran who has served as a US Naval Officer.

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