



## United Way of King County

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### CONTACT:

Jared Erlandson

206-461-3742

[jerlandson@uwkc.org](mailto:jerlandson@uwkc.org)

### **KING COUNTY BUSINESSES AND WORKERS STEP UP GIVING WHEN COMMUNITY NEEDS IT MOST**

*United Way honors top corporate philanthropists and volunteers with Spirit of Caring Awards*

SEATTLE – United Way of King County awarded its prestigious Spirit of Caring Awards on March 4 in front of a crowded ballroom at the downtown Sheraton Seattle Hotel. Honorees included individuals and corporations who, despite the downturn in the economy, have made remarkable contributions to the health of King County.

The **Seattle Mariners** took home top honors, receiving the Spirit of Puget Sound Award, recognized as King County's highest achievement in corporate philanthropy. The award honors outstanding community involvement, sustained campaign excellence, and the promotion of volunteerism.

"For years King County has benefited from the partnership between United Way and the Seattle Mariners," said President and CEO of United Way of King County, **Jon Fine**. "We are proud to present the organization with the Spirit of Puget Sound Award in recognition of their extraordinary contributions to strengthen our community."

"This is a great honor for the Seattle Mariners," said **Howard Lincoln**, Mariners Chair and CEO. "United Way of King County is doing incredible work to create strong, healthy communities and the Mariners are proud to be part of those efforts. No single organization can do it, we must all work together to make a positive and lasting impact on our communities," said Lincoln.

Long time community leader **Karen Marcotte Solimano**, was recognized as the Volunteer of the Year for her tireless work to end homelessness in King County. Karen serves on United Way of King County's board of directors and chairs United Way's Campaign to End Chronic Homelessness. Her efforts as chair have so far raised \$12.4

million to move 1,000 people in dire need into permanent housing with supportive services.

"It is truly an honor to receive this award," said Solimano "There is simply nothing more critical or rewarding than helping the most vulnerable people in our community and volunteering with United Way has given me the vehicle to really make a difference."

**Eric Markell of Puget Sound Energy** was given the Executive of the Year Award, for going above and beyond in his support of United Way. A long time donor, advocate and volunteer, Eric recently played a key role in securing a strong investment by his company in United Way's Response to Basic Needs.

United Way also presented the Chairman's Award, saluting campaigns that showed overall excellence through consistent results in employee participation and leadership giving to **AT&T, PCL Construction Services, and LMN Architects.**

**PEMCO Insurance** and the **Washington Athletic Club** each won the Leadership Giving Award, presented to companies that post significant increases of donors who contribute \$1,000 or more to United Way of King County, while **Deloitte, The Polyclinic,** and **Seattle Public Schools** each brought home the Most Significant Increase Award.

**Wells Fargo** was awarded the Outstanding Employee Volunteer Program for its Volunteer Leave Program which allows employees to take up to four months off with full pay and benefits to work with a non-profit organization of their choice.

Other honorees included **Allyis** winning Best New Campaign, **UPS, K&L Gates and the Weyerhaeuser Company** all winning Sustaining Supporter Awards.

United Way of King County's Spirit of Caring Celebration was generously sponsored by **Microsoft, the Seattle Seahawks, Puget Sound Energy, The Boeing Company, and Accenture**

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