



United Way of King County

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United Way of King County CEO Jon Fine, a catalyst for improving community conditions, announces retirement after 18 years of service and raising \$1.8 billion in community investments.

His leadership guided United Way through significant changes in the philanthropic landscape and transformed it into a nimble and effective organization poised to help the community's most vulnerable citizens for years to come.

SEATTLE – February 13, 2019. United Way of King County announced today that President and CEO Jon Fine will retire after transitioning his responsibilities to a successor, to be identified by the Board of Directors in an extensive local and nationwide search. The search committee will be chaired by board member and **Key Bank Pacific Region Executive and Market President, Carol Nelson.**

Fine, who assumed leadership of United Way in 2000 after a successful career in finance, is credited for transforming a broad based organization which funded a wide range of social and human service issues into a metrics driven funder focused on creating a community where people have homes, students graduate and families are financially stable.

“On behalf of the Board, I’d like to congratulate Jon on an outstanding tenure and thank him for his steady and innovative leadership over the past 18 years.” said **United Way Board Chair Brian McAndrews.** “The hallmark of Jon’s tenure has been a laser focus on accountability and results. Take what United Way is doing to help students graduate, as an example. It starts before kids even enter kindergarten, with the Parent-Child Home Program, a home visiting program that serves more than 1,300 families annually. Kids that graduate have higher readiness scores than the comparison group and the Washington State average, and they continue to outperform at Grade 3. Further down the continuum is United Way’s Reconnecting Youth program which is helping youth who have left school get back on track and earn a high school credential.” McAndrews, former Pandora and aQuantive CEO and digital media veteran, goes on to credit Fine with building an organization that creates effective programs, leverages relationships and government funding to truly have a long term impact on our region.

“I will forever treasure the opportunity I have had to partner with such outstanding volunteers, donors, staff, agencies and businesses to do such interesting and meaningful work,” said **Fine.** “Over the years

we have helped an enormous number of people in need, and I'm proud of our ability to bring the resources when and where they are needed most."

Leveraging partnerships to deliver the resources where and when they are needed most has been key to United Way's ability to address some of the biggest challenges facing the community, including the crisis of homelessness.

"The dollars we receive from United Way allows us to respond to the unique needs of the individuals we serve," said Michelle Merriweather, President and CEO of the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle. "United Way investments are helping us address racial disparities."

In addition to key programs to address homelessness like [Streets to Home](#) and [Jobs Connect](#) which focus on income and housing, in December 2018, United Way launched a new homelessness prevention program in partnership with the Seattle Mariners and the King County Bar Association, [Home Base](#). Home Base will reduce the number of people who lose their homes due to eviction, which is a leading cause of homelessness. The prevention program works to keep people in their homes by providing legal representation, flexible funding and case management.

"United Way knows that our community won't begin to see a difference in the crisis until we can stop more people from becoming homeless in the first place," said Fine. "Through Home Base, we are working upstream by providing eviction prevention. This is a game changer and we're so pleased the Seattle Mariners have stepped up in a big way."

Jon has also been a strong voice influencing local funding partners of homelessness services to make key changes in how they are addressing the crisis, to make performance based grants to service agencies and to hold them accountable to meet their contractual goals.

Fine's transformation of United Way of King County goes beyond that of improving community conditions through effective programs. With traditional charity giving models such as workplace giving campaigns changing, the Seattle United Way has focused its energy and efforts on engaging individual donor groups that care about tackling tough issues.

United Way [Emerging Leaders](#) are a group more than 9,000 young professionals in their 20's and 30's who invest their time and money to make a difference, while learning about social issues in the community through events and volunteering. This dynamic group is helping guide the direction of United Way and providing inroads and insight into the companies where they work.

United Way [Champions](#) are a group of forward thinking philanthropists that donate at least \$10,000 annually and care about making lasting impact. These individuals want to do more than just make a donation and forget about it. They are engaged in helping United Way decide on how and where to invest, and they bring like-minded people to join in the effort. At nearly 300 members strong and growing, United Way Champions are helping make new connections and educate others about community needs.

Jon Fine will leave United Way of King County with a solid footing for the future, a strong staff and a road map for the national United Way system to adapt to the changing fundraising landscape.

To schedule an interview or for photo or video assets, contact Jared Erlandson at jerlandson@uwkc.org.