

United Way of Tompkins County

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United Way of Tompkins County Announces Retirement of James Brown as President & CEO

Ithaca, NY –United Way of Tompkins County’s Board Chair, Scott Keenan, announces the retirement of UWTC President & CEO, James Brown, effective August 5, 2022. Brown’s leadership of the organization began in 1997 when he arrived in Ithaca to fill the position with a previous 18 years of service throughout the United Way Worldwide network. “We thank James for his commitment to the United Way of Tompkins County. He has forged strong connections and helped elevate United Way to becoming a recognized community partner for all things Tompkins County.”

James Brown worked on 44 UW campaigns over the past 43 years in four unique communities. He began his UW career in his hometown of St. Louis, then went on to hold leadership positions at the United Ways of Houston and Pikes Peak before joining United Way of Tompkins County as interim CEO in September 1997. In April 1998, he was named President & CEO of UWTC.

Over his 25 years in Tompkins County, UWTC has raised over \$47 million and leveraged financial and other resources to make an even greater impact on a wide and diverse range of people. Programs such as Youth and Philanthropy, Summers of Service, Student United Ways, Hunger & Food Security Initiatives, and Urgent Rx were conceived and developed under his leadership. These efforts, and more, have changed UWTC foundationally, and strengthened local lives and communities.

Brown shared, “The six-month interim position I accepted here evolved, grew, and has now reached its end. I appreciate and value the work and opportunity to be a part of it.”

He continues to serve the Tompkins County community with his involvement on the boards of local organizations, including Cayuga Health System and the Tompkins Charitable Gift Fund.

With Brown’s retirement, Keenan announced the temporary leadership structure for the organization moving forward. Gail Belokur, Chief Administrative Officer, has accepted the role of Interim Chief Operating Officer. “I am encouraged and thankful that Gail has taken on this important role. Her leadership will provide stability and continuity for the organization as the Board undertakes the task of finding a new CEO. The board is grateful for the staff at UWTC that will support Gail during this transition period and looks forward to continuing to serve our communities.”

The Board of Directors for the United Way of Tompkins County is creating a committee to conduct the search for the CEO position.

About UWTC:

Working with donors, community volunteers and funded partners, United Way of Tompkins County supports individuals in their efforts to live self-sufficient, productive lives and helps build a stronger, healthier community for Tompkins County through programming in the areas of financial stability, health, and education.

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