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UNITED WAY OF SALT LAKE

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United Way of Salt Lake Announces 2017 Changemakers

SALT LAKE CITY — Today, United Way of Salt Lake announced its United for Change *Changemaker* award honorees for 2017. United Way will honor Kurt Micka, Executive Director of Utah Partners for Health, Utah State Senator F. Ann Millner, Kearns High School Principal Maile Loo, and Silicon Slopes' Startup Santa as the 2017 Changemakers.

“United Way of Salt Lake is privileged to honor the 2017 Changemakers. These individuals and organizations exemplify the passion, long-term commitment, generosity, hands-on involvement and collaboration necessary to shift ideas to action,” said Bill Crim, President and CEO of United Way of Salt Lake. “By collaborating with United Way and many others to address our community’s toughest issues, these Changemakers have multiplied the effects of positive change and have made Utah a better place to live. We are grateful for their efforts that inspire the Changemaker in everyone.”

The 2017 Changemaker awards are given to business and civic leaders, and organizations that have worked with others to create measureable change in the community. Through dedication and teamwork, they create lasting impact, inspire action, and are a transformational force for good.

Kurt Micka, *Executive Director, Utah Partners for Health*

Kurt Micka, and his team of professionals at Utah Partners for Health (UPFH), define what it means to be a committed, compassionate, and willing partner in collective impact. At every turn UPFH has stepped up, looking to see what new supports it could bring to the table, and in most cases doing so in a way that leverages existing resources. Kurt and his team serve Promise Communities with mobile health clinics, mobile optometry (eye) clinics, glasses delivered to schools, mental health supports, and even dental supports. In addition, UPFH regularly helps with site visits and works with partners to raise funds to support various programs.

Dr. F. Ann Millner, *Utah State Senate*

Dr F. Ann Millner serves as the State Senator for District 18. She is Chair of the Education Standing Committee and serves on the Economic Development & Workforce Services and Senate Rules Committees, and the Higher Education and the Public Education Appropriations Committees. Ann is a Regents Professor of Health Administration and Former President at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah.

When elected, Dr. Millner became one of the Senate’s leading education Changemaker, leading out on key education policy initiatives on behalf of the Senate. She has sponsored groundbreaking legislation in close coordination with the Promise Partnership Regional Council and UWSL, including the High-Quality School Readiness Program Expansion (SB101) and Partnerships for Student Success (SB67) during the 2016 session. The High-Quality School Readiness Program Expansion added \$11 million a

year for three years to high-quality preschool for at-risk children, increasing the investment Utah makes in early childhood education. Partnerships for Student Success is creates the first state program that supports cross sector partnerships focused on measurable outcomes to increase academic achievement for students in high poverty schools.

Maile Loo, Principal, Kearns High School

Maile Loo has been teaching, coaching, and leading for 32 years – the last 18 as principal at some of the most diverse and challenging schools in the state. During her six years at Kearns High, Maile has been a powerful influence that has changed the odds for thousands of students by emphasizing increased graduation rates and college readiness. The percentage of students applying for college has steadily increased to more than 90 percent. Since 2012, the number of students completing FAFSA applications, one of the strongest indicators of student commitment to college, has doubled from 18 percent to 40 percent. Additionally, Kearns High graduation rates have jumped nearly 20 percent from 66 percent in 2012 to 84 percent in 2016.

Silicon Slopes (Start Up Santa)

Silicon Slopes is a nonprofit that exists to empower Utah entrepreneurs to learn, connect, and serve. In 2015, Executive Director, Clint Betts approached United Way of Utah County to find out how the tech and startup community could best give back to the community over the holiday season. What Clint discovered was that two out of every three Utah children living in low-income families and attending third grade don't read at a proficient level, 347,000 Utah children live at or near the poverty level, and 234,00 of those children are at-risk of intergenerational poverty. Because of this, Silicon Slopes decided to give the gift of literacy. It launched Startup Santa and raised 13,644 books from over 40 companies its first year.

This year, Silicon Slopes expanded its partnership with United Ways across the state promising to double the results, and engaged more than 90 companies and community organizations Startup Santa 2016 raised 88,000 books cash and book donations for children living in low-income families. Beyond books, 178 volunteers gave 352 hours of service to sort and distribute the books as well as read to children throughout Salt Lake County.

United Way of Salt Lake will honor these outstanding organizations and individuals at the second annual *United for Change* breakfast on March 16, 2017. For event and RSVP information please visit unitedforchange.uw.org.

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United Way of Salt Lake is working to advance the education, income, and health of our neighborhoods and communities to ensure that every child succeeds, every step of the way, from cradle to career. We invite everyone to LIVE UNITED and be a part of the change. You can give, you can advocate, and you can volunteer. Join the conversation by visiting our blog at uwslh.org, or find out more at uw.org.