

Meritorious Inductee into the Class of 2016

Mr. William M. Jones

As President and CEO of the United Way of Wyoming Valley, Bill has lead some transformational changes in how the nearly 100 year old organization serves the community. The United Way of Wyoming Valley is now leading the community's efforts to address and reduce childhood poverty which impacts more than 11,500 children; nearly one out of every three children under the age of 18 in the Wyoming Valley. The organization is leading significant work in improving early childhood education, grade level reading initiatives, graduation rates and reducing child abuse and neglect.

Bill has been responsible for leading four annual fundraising campaigns for The United Way of Wyoming Valley totaling \$14.4 million since 2012. He reestablished an Investment Committee to oversee the agency's \$12 million endowment and led the process to improve the management of these funds at substantially reduced fees. He also created a partnership with the Dolly Parton Foundation to bring the Imagination Library to the Wyoming Valley and increased visibility of the organization through social media and a redesigned website.

Previously, for twelve years as Vice President and CEO of Volunteers of America of PA, Bill championed efforts to address homelessness, mental illness, at-risk youth, elderly services and other programs for vulnerable populations. Bill helped the agency's revenue base grow from \$3.5 million in 2000 to \$7.4 million in 2011 and completely eliminated the agency's debt. He also provided oversight on the development of the Palmer House, a \$3.3 million affordable housing project and led an \$800,000 capital campaign effort to upgrade the Children's Center (a child care facility) and provided the leadership for the Dial-A-Driver transportation program to more than double in capacity and service. Bill also developed the agency's pantry for low income mothers and babies and developed the Manna House, a successful transitional housing program for homeless young adults. He helped secure public funding at the federal, state and local levels to develop and grow and ensure sustainability for a number of new services to meet local needs. Bill developed the Family Thrift Store in Wilkes-Barre as an entrepreneurial initiative to offset government funding cuts. He also led and managed 15 special events for fundraising and branding purposes and strengthened the agency's relationships with the Luzerne County Office of Human Services, other non-profit social service providers; community leaders and the donor community.

Some of Bill's professional achievements are:

- ❖ Volunteers of America Executive Developmental Program – selected by classmates to give the keynote reflection at the graduation ceremonies of the programs inaugural class (2009)
- ❖ Global Village for Future Business Leaders Program – the Iacocca Institute at Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA (2006) Guest speaker on the impact of volunteerism and the non-profit sector.

- ❖ United Way of Wyoming Valley – “Rose Brader Award for Volunteerism” (2003) selected for the United Way’s highest annual award for volunteerism
- ❖ Times Leader Newspaper – “*20 People Under 40*” (2001) *Selected as one of the “20 people under 40” (years old) who have made an impact on our community*
- ❖ PNC Bank – Employee Performance Award Nominee (1998)
- ❖ Misericordia University – Hilda Staub Garey Alumni Service Award (1995)
- ❖ Wilks-Barre Chapter of the NAACP – Outstanding Service Award (1994)

Current Board Memberships:

- The Luzerne Foundation, Luzerne, PA (2012 to present)
Serving on the Grant Distribution Committee
- United Way of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, PA (2012 to present)
Serving on the Personnel Committee
- Diamond City Partnership, Wilkes-Barre, PA (2012 to present)
- PNC Bank, Community Development Advisory Board, Scranton, PA (2005 to present)

Bill also exemplified leadership in his high school years graduating 6th in his class at Lake-Lehman High School in 1981. Bill was starting point guard on the school’s first Wyoming Valley Conference League Championship Basketball Team in his senior year. Bill played basketball all 4 years and was also statistician for the varsity football team in his sophomore, junior and senior years. Bill was also junior class President, had lead roles in junior and senior plays and was chosen for the Rotary Leadership Camp in his Sophomore year.

From 1982 through 1987, Bill coached the junior high boys basketball team winning two league championships in 5 seasons and was selected to the school’s Basketball Hall of Fame in 2006.

Bill is well recognized as a community leader in human service work and has used his education, compassion and persistence to improve the lives of those in need.