



Greater Milwaukee  
& Waukesha County

## For Immediate Release

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## United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County Announces the 2019 Philanthropic 5 Award Winners

*Community leaders honored for volunteerism and philanthropy*

[June 19, 2019] Milwaukee – United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County will celebrate and honor five community leaders and one outstanding youth for their commitment to the Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County area as the winners of the 2019 [Philanthropic 5 awards](#).

The awards, created by United Way's Emerging Leaders Council, recognize five community leaders, in their 20s, 30s or 40s, and one exceptional youth, under 21, who give, advocate and volunteer for change throughout our local community. Each Philanthropic 5 winner is awarded \$500 to donate to the charity of their choice and the Philanthropic Youth winner is awarded with a \$500 scholarship for continuing education.

The award ceremony and recognition event takes place on Thursday, August 8, 2019 at Venue Forty Two from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

### **This year's Philanthropic 5 winners are:**

#### **Liz Caldwell, Northwestern Mutual**

Liz Caldwell is an assistant director and actuary at Northwestern Mutual. In this role, Liz is responsible for overseeing the reserves for long-term care insurance and disability income, as well as the new Principles Based Reserves requirements for life insurance. Liz is a passionate volunteer, coordinating a third-grade reading program and math outreach efforts at Northwestern Mutual. Liz also leads the nursery volunteers at Mercy Hill church and supports a number of community organizations, including Meta House, through donations and volunteerism. Liz has a bachelor's degree from Purdue University and lives in the Bay View neighborhood of Milwaukee with her family.

#### **Jilly Gokalgandhi, Rockwell Automation**

Jilly Gokalgandhi works in community relations at Rockwell Automation, focusing on signature STEM volunteerism programs that empower underrepresented minorities and girls. As the 2019 curator of the Milwaukee Global Shapers, Jilly leads a cohort of young professionals who think globally and act locally by driving dialogue, action, and change. A Marquette graduate with a bachelor's degree in international relations and economics, Jilly someday hopes to represent the U.S. as a diplomat. After 5 p.m. you can catch Jilly with a good book or a good friend.

#### **Mike Maschek, Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers**

Mike Maschek is vice president of finance and strategy at Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers and has more than 15 years of experience in the healthcare industry. To further his



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personal mission of providing access to health for all, Mike serves as acting board chair and treasurer at CORE El Centro and on the boards of the Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association and Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin.

Mike is passionate about small business development and acts as business liaison for Fund Milwaukee. He has personally invested in a number of small businesses including Sherman Phoenix, the Tandem Restaurant and Fyxation Bikes.

### **Jason Rae, Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce**

Jason Rae is the founder, president, and CEO of the Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce, an organization of more than 600 LGBT and allied-owned businesses. Jason has led the organization in numerous achievements and works with the National LGBT Chamber to support other LGBT Chambers around the country. Since 2004, Jason has been a member of the Democratic National Committee and, in 2017, was elected as DNC Secretary. Jason has always found time to give back to the community, serving on a number of nonprofit boards and committees including the Milwaukee County Human Rights Commission. Jason holds a degree from Marquette University and lives in Glendale with his husband Phillip and dog George Washington.

### **Keith Stanley, Near West Side Partners, Inc.**

Keith Stanley is executive director of Near West Side Partners, Inc., where he's charged with spearheading the organization's efforts to revitalize Milwaukee's Near West Side. Keith is also executive director of the Avenues West Association and was instrumental in the expansion of Near West Side BID #10, which resulted in a 300% increase in resources to enhance the community. In 2016, Keith was named a Milwaukee Business Journal 40 Under 40 winner. Keith holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Alabama State University.

### **Philanthropic Youth**

#### **Erica Lofton, Girls in Action, Inc. Foundation**

Erica L. Lofton is a facilitator, keynote speaker, mental health advocate, performer, and founder of Girls in Action, Inc. Foundation. Erica's near peer support and advocacy with youth issues and girl's leadership have been recognized by local and national leaders, including President Barack Obama. In 2015 Erica was invited to the White House to accept the Champion of Change Award for Building Bridges Between Youth and Law Enforcement. Erica is a 2019 graduate of University School of Milwaukee and will attend the University of Wisconsin – Madison beginning in fall 2019.

**About Emerging Leaders:** *The Emerging Leaders program began in 2006 to engage young leaders with United Way and connect them to the community. The mission of the Emerging Leaders is to connect a diverse group of individuals in their 20s, 30s and 40s to make an impact on the community.*

**About United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County:** *United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County fights for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in our local community. We win by Living United. By forging unlikely partnerships. By finding new solutions to old problems. By mobilizing the best resources. And by inspiring individuals to join the fight against our community's most daunting social crises. Learn more at: <http://www.unitedwayGMWC.org>*

*Be part of the change:*



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