

For Immediate Release

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United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha Mourns the Loss of Former Leader and Community Pioneer

[05/15/2018] – Our United Way family learned today the sad news about one of our true community champions.



Susan Dragisic, former President of the United Way of Greater Milwaukee, passed away in Florida on May 14, 2018. Her family will have a private memorial service this week and may have a public memorial later in the summer. In the meantime, they ask for privacy.

Sue was at the forefront of Greater Milwaukee's nonprofit sector for more than two decades. Her great tenacity, sincere love for the community, and genuine belief in giving back to the community catapulted her to the top of her profession.

Prior to leading United Way of Greater Milwaukee, she served as the president of the United Performing Arts Fund (UPAF). During her tenure, UPAF grew substantially and ranked second in the country in total dollars raised for arts organizations.

At United Way, Sue implemented several innovative initiatives that challenged volunteers and staff to reach new heights, raising more than \$44 million in the 2008 campaign. Sue was also the driving force behind our United Way being the first in the nation to address teen pregnancy prevention.

She was a master at recruiting key volunteers, identifying areas of need, bringing resources together, developing long-term strategies, and establishing new initiatives and partnerships.

Sue was instrumental in creating United Way of Greater Milwaukee's Women's Initiative comprising female donors contributing \$1,200 or more per year. Since its inception in 2002, United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County's Women United network is



**Greater Milwaukee
& Waukesha County**

now made up of over 2,000 members who raise \$17 million annually, making it the largest Women United network in the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MLY".

Mary Lou Young
Chief Executive Officer
United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County