

LOCAL



Photo by Rachel Akpotu/Advocate

Campaign Manager Nyra Syers-Ford is shown accepting the President's Award on behalf of the Earle C. Clements Job Corps Center.

Local United Way Chapter Presents Annual Awards

By Rachel Akpotu

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The United Way of the Ohio Valley hosted a celebratory breakfast award ceremony at the Grace fellowship church on Friday.

Members presented a series of awards recognizing local companies and individuals that supported the United Way organization of Union County.

According to board member Marsha Lovern, The United Way serves as the largest charitable founder of health and human services in the area. The organization is made up of local volunteers who provide support to local service agencies.

Campaign Chair Garrick Thompson said the campaign began with a total goal of \$200,000 and raised 86 percent of that initiative over the year.

"I want to tip my hat to our local campaign teams who volunteered their time and efforts to make sure we raised as much money as possible here in our community," said Thompson. "Although we didn't reach our stretch goal this year, we did raise a total of \$172,000 and we are extremely proud of that."

"We want to celebrate our successes and recognize those who made it possible," he said. "These agencies worked tirelessly to ensure that a variety of services were available to those in our community in the way of education, income and health which are the three building blocks of a successful life."

Thompson said volunteerism, financial contribution of local business leaders and individuals throughout the community were the driving force behind last year's effort.

The award ceremony began with the Silver Award presentation for companies that experienced a double-digit percentage increase in giving during the 2014 campaign. The five silver winners included: Fifth Third Bank, Sonoco, Rayloc, Trelleborg Vibracoustic and the Union

County Fiscal Court.

The Community Spirit Award was presented to employee groups that demonstrated strong support with sustained giving for more than two years. The recipients were: Fifth Third Bank, Kentucky Utilities, Old National Bank, Rayloc and River View Coal.

River View Coal Company also accepted the Campaign Chair Award for the company with the greatest overall achievement and impact on the current campaign.

Mr. Thompson presented the President's Awards to Nyra Syers-Ford of Earle C. Clements Job Corps and Paul Loxley of Fifth Third Bank. Both groups attained the highest average gift per

employee for the year.

"First of all I just want to thank everyone that gives," said Syers-Ford. "This is such an important piece of our county. It's a privilege for Earle C. Clements to participate every year. I have been the campaign manager for several years and there have been times we struggled, but this year I believe we came through and each individual makes a difference."

"We made a few changes this year in how we ran our campaign," said Loxley. "We were tickled to death that more employees decided to participate and see how the United Way serves Union County."



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Melissa Hanor & Justin Gatlin
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Wedding May 30th

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EASTER EGGHUNT

Saturday, March 28th at 2:00 pm.

There will be 3 age groups:
1-5, 6-8, and 9-11

Whoever finds the golden egg... wins a easter basket.



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