

MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR

Two years ago, when I accepted the role of Board Chair at this very annual meeting, I spoke about Lincoln County being the gold standard for collaboration. I believed it then, and after serving alongside so many dedicated volunteers, partners, and community leaders, I believe it even more today.

What makes United Way of Lincoln County special is not simply the programs we support or the dollars we raise. It is the willingness of people from different organizations, industries, and backgrounds to come together in service of something greater than themselves. Time and again, I have witnessed leaders setting aside

individual interests to focus on what is best for our community.

As I prepare to roll off as Chair, I find myself thinking less about what we have accomplished and more about what comes next. The future of our community depends on the next generation of leaders being invited into the work, experiencing the value of service, and understanding the impact they can have through collaboration. That begins with each of us.

My challenge to our nonprofit, business, government, and civic leaders is simple: take a fresh look at your board and volunteer leadership pipelines. Encourage emerging leaders within your organizations to serve. Create opportunities for them to contribute, learn, and lead. If we want Lincoln County to remain the gold standard in collaboration, we must intentionally steward those who will carry this work forward.

On behalf of the Board, thank you for your generosity, your partnership, and your commitment to this community. Together, we have built something remarkable. Together, we can ensure it continues to thrive for generations to come.

