

United Way of Tompkins County

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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United Way Welcomes New Volunteer Leadership Ahead of Annual Community Campaign Launch

Ithaca - United Way of Tompkins County (UWTC) is delighted to announce **Alex Adelewitz** and **Cal Walker** as co-chairs for this year's Community Campaign. This dynamic duo brings a wealth of experience and dedication to UWTC's mission, promising to energize the campaign and rally the support of our local community. Adelewitz, Area Service Manager for Wegmans, has been an active and engaged member of the UWTC Board of Directors for three years; serving as a key player on the campaign and development committees. His enthusiasm for UWTC's impact work makes him a most excellent ambassador for the organization. Walker, social entrepreneur, and beloved community advocate, extends his long-time engagement with UWTC; having most recently served as UWTC's Relationship Liaison and as Campaign Chair for the 2019-20 campaign, where he successfully led the efforts that raised \$2 million. Walker's extensive community knowledge and commitment to improving the quality of life in Tompkins County make him a vital asset to the campaign.

Adelewitz shares, "co-chairing this year's Community Campaign is a thrilling opportunity to help United Way of Tompkins County continue to meet the needs of many in our beloved community. I feel now more than ever that the mission of United Way to better the lives of people through education, health and financial stability aligns with our community's needs. It's an honor and a pleasure to work side by side with the dedicated folks at UWTC to act on the needs of our neighbors." Walker adds, "I'm excited to co-chair this year's campaign because helping to ensure that core quality of life needs are met more efficiently and effectively for everyone in our community is very important to me. Funding support through United Way helps make that possible because our collective contributions are wisely and responsibly invested directly into programs and services that help people thrive. That helps ALL of us! Isn't that what a caring community is really about?"

UWTC also welcomes two new members to its Board of Directors: Cody Baldwin of Cayuga Health System and Delmer Padgett of Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES. These esteemed community volunteers join the existing nineteen Board members, collectively responsible for overseeing UWTC's operations and serving up to three (3) three-year terms.

Driven by the 2023-24 campaign theme, "**United in Action: Engage. Organize. Transform.**," these new additions to UWTC, along with staff, community partners, and volunteers will act together to leverage the power of this community to effect positive change. UWTC believes in organizing resources and people for collective impact, working across all sectors to transform the economic insecurity that so many people are facing. "I invite you to join the many volunteers, human service agencies, educational institutions, businesses, and community-based organizations, who are engaging to stand in the gap between current realities and our aspirations for economic sustainability. United Way is a wonderful vehicle for translating our values at the heart of our shared humanity into action," UWTC President and CEO Michael Ramos shares.

The quiet phase of UWTC's annual campaign is currently in progress with local workplaces sponsoring "Pacesetter" campaigns. Adelewitz and Walker will announce this year's campaign goal to the community at "Campaign Kick-off" on Friday, September 22, 12pm-1pm at Cass Park's large pavilion located at 701 Taughannock Blvd, Ithaca, NY 14850. The event is open to the public and is part of UWTC's annual Stephen E. Garner Week of Caring, during which food, personal care, baby care, and household cleaning items will be collected and distributed to pantries and community cupboards across Tompkins County.

For more information or to get involved with UWTC call (607)500-GIVE, or email info@uwtc.org.

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