

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 5, 2009



Kansas City Power & Light President Bill Downey Elected Chair of United Way of Greater Kansas City Board of Trustees

(Overland Park, Kan.)-----Bill Downey, president and COO of Kansas City Power & Light, has been a United Way volunteer in every community in which he has lived since launching his career nearly 40 years ago. He strongly believes in United Way and what people can accomplish by working together. During today's United Way of Greater Kansas City (UWGKC) annual meeting, Downey was elected as chair of UWGKC's Board of Trustees, to succeed outgoing chair Peggy Dunn.

Downey has been an active United Way volunteer since his arrival in Kansas City nine years ago. During that time he has encouraged KCP&L employees and everyone in the community to give and volunteer through United Way. In addition to serving as a United Way board member since 2006, Downey has been a key volunteer in United Way's annual fundraising campaign on numerous occasions, including co-chairing the 2006 fundraising effort which raised more than \$38.5 million.

In looking at the year ahead, Downey said, "There is no question that we are living in challenging times, but I believe that if we focus our efforts through United Way we can respond in a more organized and effective way. United Way volunteers have the passion and collective wisdom to find solutions that are both cost effective and really work." Downey added, "I look forward to the challenges and opportunities that lay ahead in the coming year."

Echoing Downey's message that we can accomplish some amazing things by working together was New York Times best selling author and keynote speaker Tim Sanders. He encouraged United Way supporters to avoid becoming paralyzed by the many challenges we face and instead, to utilize the resources we each control to solve problems and have a positive impact.

Sanders, author of *Saving the World at Work*, said, "This is the leadership challenge of our lifetime. People aren't sure what to do. We must overcome our paralysis, identify the most pressing needs in our community and work together to develop solutions to the problems we face." Sanders added, "Businesses and individuals need to do more than just focus on making a profit, they should be thinking 'What resources can I offer to help make our community a better place to live?'"

UWGKC President and CEO Brent Stewart said United Way is trying to do just that through its Community Impact Agenda. Stewart said, "In the coming year, community volunteers representing business, labor, nonprofit and the philanthropic sectors will be helping United Way develop strategies to address the issues we face. Those strategies will become our action plan as we seek to achieve measurable community goals focused on children and youth, boosting financial stability and improving the health of families and neighborhoods. We will be working with community partners to measure our progress and achieve our goals."

Joining Downey as UWGKC board officers who will guide United Way in the coming year will be:

- Carol Marinovich-----Sr. Vice President & Partner, Fleishman-Hillard - Vice Chair
- Bridgette Williams----President, Greater Kansas City AFL-CIO - Secretary

- Mark Taylor-----Vice President & CFO, Burns & McDonnell - Treasurer

Elected to serve three-year terms on UWGKC's Board of Trustees, expiring in 2012, are:

Bill Downey-----KCP&L	Jeff Provost-----Deloitte
Bob Drummond-----TLC for Children & Families	Mike Hockley-- Spencer Fane Britt & Browne
Patrick Dujakovich--IAFF Local #3808	Ralph Reid-----Sprint Nextel
Don Hall, Jr.-----Hallmark Cards	Steve Roling-----Healthcare Foundation of GKC
Henry Herrmann----Waddell & Reed Financial	Carson Ross-----Community Volunteer
	Jackie Snyder----Metropolitan Community Colleges

Elected to two-year terms expiring in 2011, are:

Mary Dobson-----Community Volunteer
 Benny Lee-----Top Innovations
 Esther Wolf-----Community Volunteer

Elected to a one-year term expiring in 2010, are:

Clay Barton-----Barton, Hall & Schneiders	Leo Nunnink-----UMB Bank
John Bluford-----Truman Medical Center	Diane Seif-----DVA Enterprises, Inc.
Ingrid Burnett-----Proctor Elementary	Brenda Sharpe----REACH Healthcare Foundation
Terry Harrison-----Harley-Davidson Motor Co.	Hannes Zacharias-Johnson County Government
Robert Levy-----Siegfreid Bingham Levy Selzer & Gee P.C.	

Appointed to a one year term as 2009 campaign co-chair is:

David Fowler-----KPMG LLP

UWGKC's annual meeting wasn't all business. In addition to the motivational message of Tim Sanders, there was excitement and suspense. Five Kansas City area United Way donors participated in a live drawing to win either a 2009 Harley-Davidson V-Rod motorcycle or \$50 gas cards donated by QuikTrip. Their names were selected at random from a list of Shareholders givers, who contributing 1% or more of their salary to UWGKC. The winner was Jeffrey Blackburn of Hallmark Cards. He said the reason he gives at the Shareholder level is because "Giving to United Way is like giving to a bunch of charities that do important work in the community all at once."

The V-Rod motorcycle, valued at more than \$17,000, was built in Kansas City and donated by the local Harley-Davidson Motor Company manufacturing plant. This year more than 6,000 Shareholder givers pledged more than \$4.8 million to United Way to help people in need in our community.

###

For additional information, contact:

Ron Howard
 United Way of Greater Kansas City
 (816) 559-4644