



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 11, 2025

Local Organizations Are Honored with United Way Spirit of North Carolina Award

Sanford, NC – United Way of Lee County announced today that The City of Sanford and FirstHealth of the Carolinas have each been awarded a Spirit of North Carolina Award in the Sustainability Through Engagement category. These organizations have modeled a dedication to community service through their fundraising, volunteer, and advocacy efforts in the year 2024.

United Way of North Carolina’s annual Spirit of North Carolina Award celebrates individuals and organizations for their exemplary partnership demonstrated through fundraising and volunteer efforts, outstanding leadership, and creative team building. Additionally, individuals who are champions of United Way are also celebrated. On March 11, United Way of North Carolina recognized 14 winners representing 5 local United Ways at the Central Region event.

“The Spirit of North Carolina Award shines a light on our incredible partners, who are supporting United Way’s work and helping us achieve our goals,” said Kendra Martin, Executive Director of United Way of Lee County. “We extend our congratulations to all Spirit of North Carolina winners across the state, and especially to the City of Sanford and FirstHealth, who are making a huge impact in the lives of our neighbors here at home.”

The City of Sanford was recognized for steady growth of its United Way campaign – which encourages employees to make an annual contribution. The City’s support of community initiatives addressing homelessness and food insecurity was also commended.

FirstHealth of the Carolinas was recognized for leadership’s support of robust campaign planning and implementation, which led to a significant year-over-year increase in FirstHealth’s campaign in Lee County.

“We are honored to have these outstanding organizations as key partners in our work,” said Martin. “We appreciate their commitment to United Way of Lee County as we work toward a shared future where everyone in our community can thrive and reach their full potential.”

About United Way of Lee County

United Way of Lee County works with community partners to provide programs and services that increase community resilience, advance youth opportunity, provide avenues to financial security, and ensure a healthy community for residents of Lee and Harnett Counties.

About the Spirit of North Carolina Award

The Spirit of North Carolina Award offers United Ways in NC communities an opportunity to honor organizations whose United Way campaigns exemplify the “spirit” of their community. United Way of North Carolina leads the award nomination and judging process and presents the award annually.

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