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## United Way President & CEO Recognized as “Community Responsibility Honoree”

**[Sept. 28, 2020, TOLEDO, OHIO]** – Wendy Pestrue, J.D., president & CEO of United Way of Greater Toledo (UWGT) will be recognized as the “Community Responsibility Honoree” at the Girl Scouts of Western Ohio’s annual Women of Distinction awards ceremony.

“Outstanding leadership starts with being collaborative, having supreme self-awareness and a tenacity to always ‘do the right thing.’ Wendy exemplifies all these leadership characteristics. I cannot think of anyone more deserving of the Girl Scouts Women of Distinction than Wendy Pestrue,” said James (Jim) Kamsickas, chairman and CEO of Dana Incorporated.

Pestrue assumed the position of president & CEO of UWGT in early 2018. In this role, she brought over 20 years of nonprofit experience to the organization, with expertise in program development and fundraising at notable institutions such as The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, Temple University College of Medicine, Defiance College and Bon Secours Health System.

“Wendy Pestrue has cut through silos and entrenched thinking to bring us together around our shared values of service and community...” said Sandy Spang, commissioner of business services at the City of Toledo.

After just two and a half years at UWGT, Pestrue led the organization through an unpredictable year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nonetheless, under her guidance, she and staff raised over a million dollars through private funds or grants for UWGT’s Emergency Response Fund, which has allocated financial resources to local organizations or community-based projects to serve those in need during this difficult time.

“[Wendy] is an optimist who believes that change is possible and a realist who deals with the meaningful barriers that can stand in the way. More than ever, we need leaders like Wendy and organizations like United Way to be successful,” said Mike Thaman, retired CEO and chair of Owens Corning and current CEO of UBQ Materials.

Staff at UWGT would also like to extend a sincere “congratulations” to their President & CEO for this well-deserved recognition. During her tenure, they believe Pestrue has moved the organization in a more positive and innovative direction than ever before.

“As a recent retiree from my position at Owens-Illinois, I have remained a United Way advocate, volunteer and serve on the Continue United steering committee. I do this, not only as a person committed to my community, but also because I believe in and support Wendy’s leadership and vision for change in our community,” said Jennifer Vancil, director of missions and community outreach at Epworth United Methodist Church.

This year’s Women of Distinction will be held in a virtual ceremony at 6:00 p.m. on October 1, 2020. Details to RSVP can be found [here](#).

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