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## **United Way thanks its best Kevin Steiner, West Bend president/CEO receives volunteer award**

A recognition breakfast became a chance for the community to meet the new United Way director and vice versa.

United Way of Washington County hosted its annual Recognition Breakfast for its donors, volunteers and representatives of member agencies at the Top of the Ridge Wednesday morning.

Kelly Tighe, United Way Board president from West Bend Mutual Insurance, introduced Kristin Brandner, who is five days into her new role as the county's United Way executive director.

Brandner said she is happy to be working with such a strong board and committed team and is "110 percent committed to United Way, Washington County and its residents."

Before taking the position as executive director, she worked at United Way in Waukesha for a dozen years and was the director of investor relations and marketing.

The 2010 Clifford A. Nelson Volunteer Leadership Award winner Nancie Heaps introduced Kevin Steiner, CEO and president of West Bend Mutual, as the 2011 winner of the award.

Steiner said he was "humbled and honored" to follow in the footsteps of previous winners.

He said he shares the award with his wife Linda and assistant Nel Smith, who keep his life in order, on and off the job.

He also said his mother and father served as his role models.

Steiner's father passed away in March, but as a teacher and volunteer, he packed a lot of life in his 85 years.

"He believed in getting involved and making a difference," said Steiner.

Steiner said his father also said it was important to treat everyone as equal, be organized and that "you'll never forget what you said if you always tell the truth."

Michael Laird, 2010 vice campaign chair introduced Randy Spaulding as his 2011 vice campaign chair.

Tighe highlighted a few key accomplishments the organization has made in 2010-11, saying the \$1.08 million raised helped fund 31 programs that provided services for 32,000 people – a 22 percent increase over last year. The board has also made a concerted effort to recruit a more geographically balanced group, reducing the number of West Bend board members from 67 percent to 56 percent.