

Fidelity State Bank & Trust is proof that you don't have to be a large company to make a big difference in your community. For many years, Fidelity has been the number one small business contributor to United Way of Greater Topeka's efforts. They are one of a very few (less than 10) businesses to regularly have 100% or near 100% employee participation in their United Way campaign. Since 1995, their employees have invested nearly \$1 million into their community.

As the bank's longtime Chairman, Anderson Chandler set high expectations for Fidelity's involvement in the campaign. Each year at campaign time, Mr. Chandler gathered employees together and made an impassioned speech about why not only United Way, but investing in the community, was so important to him and to the bank. He made sure to let employees know he was making a gift to support United Way's work and he encouraged others to do so as well. This legacy has lived on in Fidelity's current CEO Allan Towle, who similarly shares his passion for the community with employees and encourages them to support United Way's work.

Allan takes great pride in Fidelity's distinction as not only our number one small business donor, but one of our top 25 overall corporate donors. He has used this distinction to challenge other larger companies to think about ways they can increase participation and support amongst their employees. Allan has also been intentional in sharing the word about the benefits of United Way's impact model and helping his employees understand the difference their dollars will make.

Several of Fidelity's employees have served in various roles with United Way of Greater Topeka- including on our Board of Directors, Finance Committee, and other committees. As we held public input meetings this winter as part of our Strategic Planning process to develop our next set of community impact goals, Allan made sure that Fidelity employees had a chance to participate and have their say in what our work should look like going forward.

Fidelity State Bank is a small, but mighty driver of impact work here in our community. We couldn't do what we do without their support- they are more than deserving of this year's Outstanding Corporate Donor Award.