



United Way
of Central Maryland

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United Way of Central Maryland Announces BGE's Stephen J. Woerner as Chair of the Board

Tomi Hiers, of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, announced as next Chair-Elect

*****Headshots Included Below*****

BALTIMORE (September 14, 2017) – [United Way of Central Maryland](#) today announced the appointment of Baltimore Gas and Electric's (BGE) President and Chief Operating Officer Stephen J. Woerner as Chair of its Board of Directors. He will serve as chair for two years.

In his position, Woerner will provide leadership to United Way of Central Maryland, helping to support and sustain the organization's work while providing governance leadership and strategic fundraising support. He will also guide the Board of Directors in fulfilling its major roles which include: setting direction for the nonprofit; ensuring results; representing United Way in the community; bringing the community's voice to the organization's decision-making and maintaining the community's trust in the organization.

"I've always been drawn to organizations that help people become less dependent and fully reach their potential — and that's exactly what United Way of Central Maryland does," Woerner said. "As we embark upon this pivotal time in our country, helping others must become a priority — and it's something that has to start in our backyard. United Way is a local entity that brings people together to solve the most complex problems facing communities. Our goal is to continue identifying real solutions to address the challenges that are facing our local community on a daily basis."

Over the years, Woerner has participated in many United Way programs, such as Walk a Mile, an educational experience in which participants assume the role of an individual living at or near the poverty line and are challenged to make tough life decisions with few resources. He's also participated in Project Homeless Connect, an event that helps to bring central Maryland's homeless community the vital services they need. Woerner became president of BGE on March 1, 2014. He has also been serving as the company's chief operating officer since 2012. Woerner oversees the day-to-day operations of the company, including safety, reliability, efficiency and customer service, and information technology.

Tomi Hiers, director of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Baltimore Civic Site, has been appointed as chair-elect and will become chair of the board in July 2019. Hiers has worked in the nonprofit and government sectors for more than two decades to improve outcomes for Baltimore's children and families.

"Stephen and Tomi have continued to demonstrate that fighting for central Maryland's underserved communities is a priority in their lives," said Franklyn Baker, president and CEO, United Way of Central Maryland. "We are thrilled to have Stephen on board this year. Our recent investment into central Maryland communities, totaling more than \$4.1 million, will propel our community work under Stephen's leadership. And, we are excited to have Tomi join the team next year as we continue to search for solutions to provide area individuals and families with a solid foundation and get them back on their feet. The time to fight is now, and we are primed for the challenge."

For more information about United Way of Central Maryland's work, or to join our fight to create meaningful, measurable and lasting change for people throughout our region, visit www.uwcm.org.

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Stephen J. Woerner, Chairman, Board of Directors



Tomi Hiers, Chair-Elect, Board of Directors

About United Way of Central Maryland

United Way fights for the education, health and financial stability of every person in every community. For more than 90 years, United Way of Central Maryland has been improving lives in the communities it serves: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard Counties, and Baltimore City.

All of United Way's work is supported by the 2-1-1 Maryland United Way Helpline, a 24-hour, 7-day a week service that provides information and referrals on a variety of health and human service issues. Celebrating its 10th anniversary, the program has provided answers for more than 104,000 calls for help in fiscal year 2016.

*In January 2017, United Ways in Maryland released the ALICE[®] Report, revealing that more than a third of Maryland households – nearly 750,000 – either live in poverty, or qualify at or below the **ALICE** (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) threshold. United Way of Central Maryland works to stabilize ALICE residents – individuals and families who work hard but still cannot afford basic necessities because of Maryland's high cost of living – and those that fall below the Federal Poverty Level, by focusing on the building blocks of a better life to become self-sufficient: education, employment, housing and health.*

United Way is improving lives in central Maryland communities, but no one can create change alone. United Way of Central Maryland encourages individuals to get their friends, colleagues and others involved, to do more in the community and help more families in central Maryland. Working together, United Way of Central Maryland, its supporters and its volunteers can empower more families in the communities it serves.

To learn more about the United Way of Central Maryland, visit www.uwcm.org. To find out more about the ALICE Report, visit www.uwcm.org/ALICE.