

PRESS RELEASE

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United Way of Rhode Island Welcomes New Members to Board of Directors and Community Advisory Board

Dolph Johnson, EVP, Chief Global Human Resources Officer for Hasbro, Inc. named board chair

Providence, R.I. (November 4, 2021) — United Way of Rhode Island has appointed a total of 10 community leaders across its board of directors and its Community Advisory Board, while also naming a new board chair.

Assuming leadership of the board of directors is **Dolph Johnson**, EVP, Chief Global Human Resources Officer for Hasbro, Inc. Johnson succeeds Michele Lederberg, EVP, Chief Legal Officer and Chief Administrative Officer for Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island, who served as chair for three years and has been a member of the United Way of Rhode Island board since 2012.

“Michele Lederberg has been a relentless force for good and there is no question that our organization and our state are better off as a result of her leadership,” said Cortney Nicolato, United Way’s president and CEO. “It is vitally important to have an active and engaged board, and as we move forward, I am ecstatic to work with Dolph — those who join our board are here to work on behalf of all Rhode Islanders, and that describes Dolph to a tee.”

Joining Dolph Johnson on the board after being elected for three-year terms are:

- **Wes Cotter**, Director of Corporate Communications, Gilbane, Inc.
- **Joanne Daly**, First Vice President, Financial Advisor, Morgan Stanley
- **Ramona Royal**, AVP, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston
- **Rena Sheehan**, VP, Clinical Integration, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of RI
- **Suresh Swaminathan**, President, Teknor Apex Company

“I am humbled by both the opportunity and great responsibility to lead the United Way board and work alongside such an exceptional group of people who want to make our communities better,” said Dolph Johnson. “This is an organization that puts community first and is committed to keeping equity at the center of everything we do.”

In addition to the election of new members to its board of directors, United Way also welcomed a slate of individuals to its Community Advisory Board. The Community Advisory Board is a diverse group that lends its expertise and insights to help guide the organization’s strategic initiatives and community investments. New to the CAB are:

- **Patrick Crowley**, Secretary-Treasurer, Rhode Island AFL-CIO
- **Kelly Nevins**, CEO, Women’s Fund of Rhode Island
- **Ray Nuñez**, Founding Partner, Nuñez, The People’s Agency
- **Nina Pande**, Executive Director, Skills for Rhode Island’s Future
- **Kelly Ramirez**, CEO, Social Enterprise Greenhouse

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United Way of Rhode Island is uniting our community and resources to build racial equity and opportunities for all Rhode Islanders. A member of the world's largest nonprofit network, we bring together individuals, businesses, nonprofits, community leaders, and government to tackle the root causes of inequity and achieve specific, measurable goals. Our programs include 211, the statewide front door connecting Rhode Islanders with social services, resources, and vital programs. Both directly and through grants to nonprofits, we are investing to build economic opportunity, advance childhood learning, expand philanthropy, and drive policy and participation. To learn more, visit unitedwayri.org or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), or [Twitter](#).