



United Way of
Williamson County

NEWS RELEASE

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Laughter & Tears at United Way of Williamson County Reception Honoring the Janet Engvall McTigue Advancing Excellence Award Winner

United Way of Williamson County (UWWC) recently presented the 2009 Janet Engvall McTigue Advancing Excellence Award to Williamson County Crisis Center, dba Hope Alliance. The award was presented at a private reception at the home of Dorothy and Tom Shockley on the evening of January 29. The staff and board members of United Way and Hope Alliance, the Engvall family, including Bill Engvall, Jr., popular actor, comedian, and brother of Janet Engvall McTigue, participated in this special evening.

The \$10,000 memorial award was established to honor Janet Engvall McTigue and to continue her commitment to improving the lives of others, especially the most vulnerable members of the community. Ms. McTigue was former Executive Director of the Georgetown Area United Way, a practicing attorney in Texas, and 2004 Democratic candidate for Williamson County Attorney. Tragically, she lost her life in 2007 after sustaining injuries in a fire.

The reception included both laughter and tears as Jennifer Edwards of United Way and Bill Engvall commented on Janet Engvall McTigue's career with United Way and her spirit, humor and legacy. During the reception, Bill Engvall, Jr. commented, "Janet was always doing work that surprised and inspired us. My family and I are honored that an award has been established in my sister's name. She was proud of her work with United Way and I am impressed with what they are doing. She would be happy to know this award will help Hope Alliance this year. Janet would tease us for making such a fuss, but I know she'd be proud."

The Janet Engvall McTigue award was specifically established by UWWC to help strengthen one worthy nonprofit organization each year. "One thing Janet was very clear on was her commitment to raising the standard of excellence in our local nonprofit community. That means nonprofits engaging in things like strategic planning and training for board members. Those are also things that can have a hefty price tag and are very difficult to find funding for. United Way of Williamson County created this award as a memorial to Janet but also to demonstrate our commitment to improving the business structure of the nonprofit community," said Jennifer Edwards, Chief Professional Officer of United Way of Williamson County.

As the only emergency shelter and provider of comprehensive services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence in Williamson County, Hope Alliance is the first recipient of this very special award. Warren Jones, Hope Alliance board president, stated, "Despite the fact that we served more than 5,000 individuals last year, we cannot forget that more than 150 families had to seek refuge elsewhere because our shelter was full. We are very grateful that United Way of Williamson County recognizes our value to the community and are offering us this much-needed assistance. We will use it to strengthen our ability to respond to the strategic challenges we face including an ever-increasing demand for services and a difficult economic situation that will likely take further toll on nonprofits."

About United Way of Williamson County: *United Way of Williamson County is working to advance the common good by focusing on education, income and health. These are the building blocks for a good life — a quality education that leads to a stable job, enough income to support a family through retirement, and good health. To learn more about the LIVE UNITED goals and mission of United Way of Williamson County visit www.unitedway-wc.org or call 512.255.6799.*

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