

## **GIVING THROUGH THE GENERATIONS**

### ***Text of 2018-2019 United Way of Central Oklahoma Leadership Giving Registry***

It is hard to get anything past a man like Dennis Jaggi. He's a keen business man with a heart the size of his personality. Meet him for a minute, and you feel like you've been friends with him for a lifetime, and that's part of what makes him so successful. He knows everyone, he knows what it takes to build a successful business, and he knows that the keys to success include building strong families and strong communities. That is why Dennis has made it his personal mission to talk about United Way with anyone who will listen. It is almost impossible to measure the impact that he has had in getting people involved with United Way of Central Oklahoma over the last thirty years, even though he tries to downplay his role. But in all this time of Living United, Dennis never realized the impact his giving spirit was having on his own family.

Dennis will tell you that he and Janet have been United Way givers for many years, even when he was living in Texas in the 1980's. When he moved to central Oklahoma in 1989, he made sure he continued that tradition. In a short amount of time, the company he was running was recognized as one of the top United Way companies of its size, and this is something that still makes him proud. But over the years, Jaggi's relationship with United Way evolved, and he began to get involved in other ways. He led the annual campaign, as Campaign Chair in 1997, and became board chair in 1999. Somewhere in between, he served as Energy Chair on the Campaign Cabinet, was Pacesetter Chair, and has always helped get new businesses involved with United Way, including Chesapeake Energy.

Over the years, he and his wife Janet have been intimately involved with many United Way events. When United Way first began hosting the Leadership Reception, Dennis and Janet were instrumental in getting a sponsor for the event; then they stood at the door of that reception and greeted every guest that walked in.

Throughout all the meetings, campaigns, and speeches, Dennis says he always felt it was important to come home and talk about what he was doing for United Way and why. It may come as no surprise that Dennis and Janet raised two successful kids, who are now leaving their own mark on the world and have found a way to give back in their own way. Although Dennis takes no credit for his son, Greg's decision to make a living through community service – as a Sergeant with the Edmond Police Department. He was surprised to learn that Greg and his wife, Christie, now support United Way at Leadership Levels with their own hard-earned money. "I didn't know that at all, in fact, it was Debby and Nina who told me that they are Leadership Givers... They really stepped it up a bit, and I'm really proud of them for that."

Dennis and Janet say they will continue devoting time and energy to United Way, because Central Oklahoma needs the organization more than it ever has. “I see there is a need out there... a big disparity between successful people and people who are in trouble”, Jaggi said. “What we need to do is look out the window and ask how we can help these people get their feet on the ground, get going, and help them be successful.” Dennis says it is his life’s mission to do what he can to convince people to share their success with the people who need a helping hand, and that’s a goal he doesn’t take lightly. “The way I see it, when you look at your life, you need three things: The number one thing you need is a way to provide for your family, protect them, give them housing and give them things you need; number two is to have a healthy relationship with your family, a loving family, your kids love you; and number three is to have your health– there are so many people out there who are missing these things. And finally, if you are lucky enough to have more than that, and you’re able to give to your fellow man, I think it’s important... it doesn’t take much to share with people who are in trouble. That can really make a difference.”