

Media Contact: Sandy Young, J. Walcher Communications
sandy@jwalcher.com, 619-295-7140

United Way of San Diego County First Community Breakfast Raises More than \$200,000 Nonprofit Awards \$10,000 in Scholarships to High School Seniors

SAN DIEGO (May 24, 2017) – “No one gets where they are going alone.” This was one of the key takeaways that Liz Murray, author of “Breaking Night,” shared during the keynote speech at [United Way of San Diego County](#)’s first annual “Changing the Odds Community Breakfast” on May 10 at the San Diego Convention Center.

The first-ever fundraiser for the 97-year-old nonprofit raised \$200,000 with the 700 attending community partners, local businesses and allies to help children be successful both inside and outside the classroom. United Way of San Diego County’s Women’s Leadership Council also gave seven scholarships to high school seniors, totaling \$10,000.

“We are so grateful to everyone who came out to our breakfast this month,” said President and CEO Laurie Coskey, Ed.D. “United Way is determined to make San Diego a place where children’s dreams do come true.”

The event’s honorary chair was San Diego First Lady Katherine Stuart Faulconer, and KUSI’s Brad Perry emceed the breakfast, leading the charge for onsite fundraising, which totaled \$25,000. Notable attendees included Sheriff Bill Gore, District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis and several members of the San Diego City Council.

The breakfast culminated in Murray’s keynote speech, sharing her journey from homeless teen to Harvard graduate. Murray left hundreds of attendees teary-eyed as she recounted growing up with cocaine-addicted parents in the Bronx, and how she ended up on the streets by age 15. Determined to take charge of her life, Murray finished high school in two years and was awarded a full scholarship to Harvard University. Murray stressed the importance of community intervention, helping youth like her so they can succeed and thrive.

More than 50 San Diego companies supported the breakfast, including Champion Sponsor Solar Turbines and Visionary Sponsor SDG&E.

About United Way of San Diego County

By working with hundreds of nonprofits, schools, businesses and community leaders, **United Way of San Diego County** is changing the odds for children through its work in education and family stability. The nonprofit plays a unique role, bringing the right people and resources together to spark breakthrough community action that elevates every child and family toward a brighter future. United Way solves complex problems by maximizing existing community partners/resources and establishing common goals to create permanent change in the community. LIVE UNITED is a call to action for everyone to get involved by donating and volunteering. Learn more at www.uwsd.org, the [blog](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

###

