

Maureen Tiffany

Maureen Tiffany began her United Way career in 1985 as an intern in the former Planning and Allocations department, as part of her Master of Social Work program with the University of Iowa.

She remained with United Way for 27 year, leading our work to improve our community's network of early learning centers for children in low-income neighborhoods. In fact, she was the first United Way employee to be dedicated to our emerging Community Impact Work. She served nobly and faithfully under five United Way presidents.

At one point, she managed 105 community programs. She believed in the importance of measuring program and community outcomes, making United Way the community leader in quantifying the great work the organization does.

Maureen was revered for her ability to forge community-wide partnerships in our work. She was equally respected in schools, the halls of state government, and in the homes of the children for whom she worked so hard.

Maureen was instrumental in the creation of a community-wide strategy for early childhood and was instrumental in raising nearly \$50 million in state and grant funds through Early Childhood Iowa and a preschool earmark grant from Senator Harkin, which she lobbied for in Washington, DC on several occasions.

She championed many causes at United Way, and the last 11 years of her career were focused on improving the quality of child care for children in low-income neighborhoods.

Maureen took this most unglamorous and unknown cause and elevated it to a state and national level. Today this work lives in Women's Leadership Connection, which she helped launch in 2002, Maureen was the "connector" between United Way's work in early childhood and the women —many of them her personal friends— who wanted to support this important work. Thanks to her, WLC reaches nearly 5,000 young children age birth-5 each year.

She built a national reputation as a leader in mobilizing a community around issues affecting young children. She was often called to present at national United Way conferences, where she was known to "talk shop" and share best practices late into the evening. Maureen is a big reason this United Way holds such a strong reputation for effectiveness and leadership.

Long before "community impact" became United Way's model, Maureen was reminding her colleagues, "This work is bigger than what we do in these four walls." She built and valued partnerships across the community.

Maureen had a wonderful sense of humor and fun. She's fondly remembered as the founding mother of the annual staff "Pignic" pig roast, held at Walnut Woods. She was diplomatic and respectful (and was never known to use off-color language), but could tell a deliciously ribald and funny story. Her co-workers knew she could always relieve a stressful situation with her compassion, goodwill and humor.

Her commitment, caring and compassion for her work —particularly with early childhood initiatives— truly reflects our mission and for that, we are deeply grateful. As United Way staff, we will do our best to honor her amazing legacy and ensure her work lives on. She has touched us all and we shall miss her deeply.