



**United Way
of Lawton-Fort Sill**

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Media Advisory

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United Way Honors Donor Intent

Hospice takeover prompts United Way to reach out to donors in order to honor intent

Lawton, Okla.- The United Way of Lawton-Fort Sill honors all donor designations to qualifying not-for-profit organizations. Due to the absorption of Hospice of Southwest Oklahoma to Faith Hospice, direction will be needed to honor donor designation.

United Way allocations are awarded only to 501(c)3 organizations. Faith Hospice, a for-profit organization, does not meet the requirements needed to qualify as a partner agency and therefore will not be eligible to receive allocation dollars designated to Hospice of Southwest Oklahoma. All donors who designated their donation or payroll deduction benefit Hospice of Southwest Oklahoma will be contacted this week with alternative choices for their donation. "Honoring the intentions of those who pledge or donate to the United Way is foremost on our mind, however when an organization becomes ineligible to receive those funds, other plans must be made with the consent of the donor." said Katie Noffske, executive director of the United Way of Lawton Fort-Sill. Donors will have the option to re-direct their funds to an eligible United Way partner organization, have their donation be redistributed to any eligible 501 c3 organization, or they can request a stop to their payroll deduction. "We understand when circumstances change that donors may wish to reconsider their donation. While we are disappointed that funds can no longer be directed to Hospice of Southwest Oklahoma, those funds can still make a difference in someone else's life through another partner agency if the donor chooses" said Noffske.

All other donations will continue to be honored as originally pledged, as is standard with all United Way donations. *Only* donations designated to Hospice of Southwest Oklahoma are affected by the recent absorption.

About the United Way of Lawton-Fort Sill:

The United Way funds 21 local agencies and their various programs that address community issues. . The United Way is a charitable organization and depends on volunteers and the generosity of the local community to fulfill its mission. For more information, please visit www.uwlawton.org .