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# LEADING THE WAY

**“WE CAN HEAL OR CURE SOMEONE WITH A DISEASE,  
AND IF THEY DO NOT HAVE THE ABILITY TO PUT FOOD ON THEIR TABLE  
WHEN THEY GET HOME, WHAT HAVE WE ACCOMPLISHED?” - SKIP HISLOP**

When Skip Hislop was asked to lead the Cone Health’s annual United Way campaign, he wanted to discover what truly makes United Way tick. As Vice President of Oncology, it’s not surprising Skip wanted to conduct a little research to produce a successful outcome.

“When asked to chair our campaign, I committed to learning what United Way truly was and what it stood for,” says Skip. He attended annual meetings, toured the Family Success Center, met with United Way strategic partners and attended many United Way events.

Skip developed a passion for United Way’s goal of ending poverty and it was infectious.

Thanks to his leadership, Cone Health’s 2017-18 campaign was more successful than it’s ever been. In fact, the health care system was honored by United Way of North Carolina with an Excellence in Community Spirit Award.

While serving as a campaign chair, Skip saw and heard directly from youth and families who are being helped by United Way’s efforts.

“I was able to connect the dots about why this work is so important and why it matters. Seeing first-hand how United Way impacts people was life changing for me.”

“Poverty has a detrimental impact on individuals’ ability to thrive. We can heal or cure someone with a disease, and if they do not have the ability to put food on their table when they get home, what have we accomplished? If we help people get a job with health insurance but they can’t afford childcare, what have we accomplished?”

This is exactly why United Way creates and supports bundled services that work together to holistically lift families out of poverty.