LETTER FROM
United Way President/CEO
Drew Langloh

Thank you for joining us at our inaugural IGNITE Awards. Today, we celebrate a stellar group of unsung individuals thriving with passion, talent and time.

The volunteer engagement strategies of Hands on Birmingham and United Way of Central Alabama produce quality outcomes in our communities that we all enjoy. Our volunteers are the respected backbone of our organizations and cannot put a price on their value in the many roles they play. In turn, through personal growth and discovering hidden talents we connect them to life-changing experiences. We are actively searching for more of you to support our new and expanded programs.

Congratulations to all our nominees, know that your service has a positive ripple effect that will last forever.

Drew Langloh, President & CEO
United Way of Central Alabama, Inc.
Welcome Everyone,

It is an honor and truly a privilege to welcome all of you to the first IGNITE Awards Ceremony. Today is a special occasion to honor our heroes who dedicate their time to improve the communities where we live, work and play. At Hands On Birmingham, we strive to provide meaningful volunteer opportunities to people where they can make a measurable difference and help bring about positive social change in our community. It has been an amazing experience to witness the contributions of so many citizens that IGNITE us all to care for those around us. Our nominees are the “roll-up-their-sleeves” volunteers who allocate time from their busy schedule to tend to other’s needs without being compensated for their efforts.

In the spirit of volunteerism, don’t wait for opportunities to come to you. Instead, create your own opportunities or seek ways to enhance the community around you and those who live in it. We also have to remember that we serve as role models to those coming up behinds us.

“The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.”

Thank you to those who have been planting trees – let’s join them in making a better world.

We would like to thank you for your time today, and realizing the importance of not only volunteerism, but also supporting each other in the movement. Before we depart today, let us remember to IGNITE Action and Accelerate Change.

Sincerely,

Benga Harrison, Director, Hands On Birmingham

More than two years ago, Hands On Birmingham leadership took note of an important need: the need to recognize the impact of volunteerism in our community. Not just in our community but also around the world, the economic and social impact of volunteerism is largely ignored, and the contributions made through the dedication and discipline of our volunteers continues to go unnoticed. It is time to shine a light on the amazing transformations taking place in our communities as a result of volunteerism.

To that end, the HOB staff and Cabinet envisioned Ignite as a platform to publicly honor volunteers and to bring awareness to the relentless spirit of volunteerism that has undergirded the Birmingham region’s growth and ascension to the world stage.

We believe our volunteers are unsung heroes whose efforts deserve to be recognized by our political and business leaders, and we hope this platform will serve as a means to do just that. Join us as we applaud the efforts and impact of volunteers in the Birmingham region.

And while you’re at it, join the movement — Do good. Feel good. Volunteer.

All the best,

Jessica Findley and Carolyn Newton

Ignite Co-Chairs
Hands on Birmingham, a Program of United Way of Central Alabama, introduces Ignite: an innovative awards ceremony designed to publicly recognize the many unsung and dedicated citizens who are outstanding volunteers and service-oriented leaders in Birmingham and surrounding communities.

Each day, committed volunteers ignite action and accelerate change through their service to others. While their actions often go unrecognized, volunteers are truly the catalysts through which real change happens.

For this reason, Hands on Birmingham envisioned Ignite as a platform to pay tribute to those dedicated volunteers who have made significant contributions in service and leadership throughout the Greater Birmingham area.

**PURPOSE OF THE AWARDS**

**THANK YOU TO OUR DESIGNERS**

CHRIS GOODSON  
Communications Director  
United Way of Central Alabama  
Thank you Chris for being the creative genius behind the Ignite logo.

AMY SOVEROW  
Owner and Designer  
The Glass Studio  
Thank you Amy for taking Chris’s design and turning into a 3-dimensional “Hands On Fire” Award.
IGNITE PROGRAM

Host Committee & Nominees Tribute

Welcome & Purpose of Awards - Benga Harrison

Greetings - Drew Langloh
Mayor William A. Bell, Sr.

Invocation - Debra Blaylock

Brunch

IGNITE Award Presentations

Volunteer Pledge Commitment - Benga Harrison

Closing Remarks - Benga Harrison
Thomas Wilder

EVENT MANAGED BY
2017 INAUGURAL IGNITE HOST COMMITTEE

The IGNITE Host Committee is comprised of various individuals who serve as community advocates and business leaders throughout the community. They have relentlessly lent their charisma and resources to generate awareness for the first ever IGNITE Volunteer Awards Ceremony. Hands On Birmingham is proud to introduce the 2017 Inaugural IGNITE Host Committee:

CAROL BRUSER
University of Montevallo

J.W. CARPENTER, JD
Birmingham Education Foundation (BEF)

KWANI CARSON
The City Of Birmingham – Mayor’s Office

DR. JOSH CARTE
University Of Alabama At Birmingham

RACHEL ESTES
Canterbury UMC

SHIRLEY M. FAGAN
O’Neal Industries

WILL FAGAN
United Way Of Central Alabama

SCOTT FORD
RealtySouth

DEON GORDON
REV Birmingham

ELLYN GRADY
United Way Of Central Alabama

Faith Chapel Christian Center

Faith Chapel Christian Center
IGNITE CITIZENS
VOLUNTEER
AWARD
CATEGORIES
AND NOMINEES

HANDS ON BIRMINGHAM
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

NOMINEES
★ CASSIDY BONNER
★ WENDY MALONE

CORPORATE/COMPANY
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

NOMINEES
★ LAJUANA BRADFORD | Regions Bank
★ JON HUGHSTON | Polynone/Glasforms
★ TERESA ZUNIGA ODOM | Alabama Power
★ CHARLOTTE CONAWAY | TekLinks
★ ANNE LARY | Regions Bank
★ MARIE VANDINE | Alacare Hospice

GOVERNMENT
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

NOMINEES
★ SHANTE BENDER-COLLINS | State of Alabama
★ THERESA DE LEON | Birmingham Fire and Rescue Service
★ BRANDON FALLS | Jefferson County District Attorney’s Office
★ HENRY GIBSON | Mason City Neighborhood Association
★ FREDRICK JACKSON | Killough Springs Neighborhood Association
★ KEVIN LAMPER | Crestwood Neighborhood Association
★ CECELIA WILLIAMS | Five Points West Neighborhood Association

NONPROFIT
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

NOMINEES
★ ABRA BARNES | Urban Blessings
★ CASSIDY BONNER | Salvation Army
★ RUSTY BOYD | STAIR of Birmingham
★ JAMES CHRISTIAN | McWane Center and Birmingham Zoo
★ JAMES COURTNEY | Big Brothers Big Sisters
★ DENA DICKERSON | Offender Alumni Association
★ FRANCES FAULKS
★ GINNY GRAVES | Alacare Home Health Hospice
★ BRIAN “VOICE PORTER” HAWKINS | The Color Project Ensley
★ TRACI HAWKINS | Women of Stamina Ministries International, Inc.
**Top 2 finalists in each category**

**MARY JOHNSON-BUTTERWORTH | YWCA**
**BARBARA KOEHLER | Crisis Center, Inc.**
**MONICA MCCLENDON | Grace Klein Community**
**PEGGY MYLES**
**ALEJANDRA OCAMPO | Girls Incorporated of Central Alabama**
**ERIKA PERRY | IMPACT Counseling**
**ERICA ROBINS | Be A Blessing Birmingham**
**WHITNEY SAUNDERS | Junior League of Birmingham**
**JENNY BROWN SHORT | Walker County Health Action Partnership**
**RHONDA SIEGEL | Collat Jewish Family Services**
**FELICIA STEWART | Alabama Possible**
**ALICE WESTERY | Youth Towers**

**SMALL BUSINESS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES**
**ALEXIS HOPE | Hope Harbor, LLC**
**MARCO MOROSINI | Silvertron Cafe’**
**JAIRO VARGAS | Latino News, LLC**
**KIMBERLEY WEATHERINGTON | Genuine Home Care Services**

**FAITH BASED VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES**
**SONDA AZBELL | Church of the Highlands**
**TORRIE CHATMAN | Beloved Women’s Ministry**
**ANNA JAMES | Independent Presbyterian Church**
**LARRY TURNER JOHNSON | Adventist Community Services**
**ELIZABETH JUDD | St. Martin’s in the Pines**
**DARIUS MCCLURE | Christ Church**
**SUSAN NEWTON | Positive Force Ministries**
**ROBBIE NORRIS | The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**
**ASHLEY SUTTON | Ashley Speak**
**BARBARA ANDOLINA WEIDE | St. Martin’s in the Pines**

**STUDENT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES**
**ROBYN GULLEY | Birmingham Southern**
**RICARDO ANDRE ORTIZ-BRAIDOT**
**MADDEN SAVERSE | University of Montevallo**
**JAMES THORNTON | Holy Family Cristo Ray Catholic High School**
**FERNANDA HERRERA VERA | Samford University**

#THISIGNITESUS | April 25, 2017
LETTER FROM
Mayor William A. Bell, Sr.

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the marvelous city of Birmingham, I am delighted to extend greetings to Hands On Birmingham on the occasion of your 2017 Ignite Awards ceremony, celebrating the leadership, accomplishments and outstanding community service in Birmingham. It is fitting that we recognize those who have made a lasting impact on the community and who has been a special part of the progress our city has made over the past fifty years.

I would like to offer a special recognition to the great men and women who stand as honorees of this event and say thank you for your dedication and humility. Your good works and tireless deeds is duly noted and appreciated.

Again, I commend Hands On Birmingham for your willingness to recognize the strength, character and integrity of the men and women of Birmingham. It is my sincere hope that you will continue to inspire and motivate our citizens to be the best leaders for generations to come.

Sincerely,

William A. Bell, Sr.
Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
SPECIAL THANKS

Hands On Birmingham would like to give a special thanks to United Way of Central Alabama for their partnership with Ignite. The resources provided by United Way of Central Alabama were an integral part in making this event a success!
Pledge Commitment:

I ____________________________

NAME HERE

pledge to volunteer ____________ hours

NUMBER OF HOURS

this year to enhance the neighborhood I

live in and promote the spirit of a unified

community.