

Press Release



United Way of the Bay Area

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Beth Cobert Appointed Board Chair for United Way of the Bay Area Janet Lamkin to Lead Fundraising for 2009/10 Campaign

SAN FRANCISCO, August 17, 2009 – United Way of the Bay Area is pleased to announce its new volunteer leadership team: Beth Cobert, director at McKinsey & Company’s San Francisco office, will chair its board of directors for the next two years, and Janet Lamkin, president of Bank of America California, will serve as chair of its 2009/10 Bay Area fundraising campaign.

“As two of the busiest people in the Bay Area’s business community, Janet and Beth are a powerful team, calling on other leaders to support United Way,” said United Way of the Bay Area CEO Anne Wilson. “Beth and Janet lead by example, and we are fortunate to have them lead our volunteer team.”

As board chair, Cobert will help lead United Way’s continuing efforts to create pathways to prosperity for low-wage families and individuals in the Bay Area. Cobert joined United Way’s board in early 2008 and served on the campaign cabinet last year.

“I am deeply committed to United Way’s goals of making our community a place where people have access to the tools and resources that they need to sustain themselves,” said Cobert. “United Way is unique in the role it plays in bringing together businesses, their employees, other individuals, nonprofits, and the government, which collectively garner resources to address community needs in the most effective way.”

As campaign chair, Lamkin leads United Way’s volunteer fundraising cabinet, working closely with the United Way board, staff and volunteers to inspire current and potential donors. She served as campaign vice-chair during United Way’s 2008/09 campaign.

“This is a critical time for the nonprofit organizations that United Way supports,” said Lamkin. “Contributions are down at precisely the time when the need for their vital services is at an all-time high. No organization is better equipped than United Way to meet this challenge and ensure the continued vitality and sustainability of our communities.”

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Beth Cobert is a leader of McKinsey's Global Marketing Practice and its Personal Financial Services and Private Equity practices. She has been the leader of McKinsey's San Francisco office and also serves on the steering committee for McKinsey's Women's Initiative. Beth is active in a variety of community and nonprofit organizations. She currently serves on the boards of the San Francisco Ballet and the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce.

Janet Lamkin is President of Bank of America California, responsible for ensuring the integration of the company's entire operation throughout the state, in order to deliver the full power of Bank of America to customers, clients and communities and meet the bank's growth goals across all lines of business. California is the largest and most important market in Bank of America's nationwide franchise, and Bank of America is California's largest bank. Janet has served on the California Advisory Council of Economic Development and was the president of the Professional Business Women of California. The former president of the State Government Affairs Council, Janet serves on the boards of the California Chamber of Commerce, the California Business Roundtable, the Southern California Leadership Council and the Executive Committee of the Bay Area Council, as well as the San Francisco Symphony, SF Museum of Modern Art and the Autry National Center in Los Angeles.

About United Way of the Bay Area

United Way of the Bay Area is a nonprofit organization that creates pathways to prosperity for the most vulnerable in our community by focusing on the essential building blocks of education, income and health. We help children achieve their potential, promote financial stability for low-wage adults and strive to improve health for everyone. United Way convenes partners across sectors, advocates for policy change, runs community programs and educates residents about the issues most vital to a resilient community. Founded in 1922, United Way of the Bay Area serves Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo and Solano Counties. For more information, visit www.uwba.org.

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