DONOR STORY
KATIE JAHNKE DALE BUILDS A STRONGER CHICAGO



As the seventh of eight children, Katie Jahnke Dale learned at a young age how to hold her own.

"My large family taught me relationship building from the outset and how to be scrappy and speak up," Katie said. Skills that, today, have helped make her a force in real estate law—and committed to giving back.

The Kansas native moved to Chicago for law school at Chicago-Kent College. Katie knew she wanted to practice in a city, and Chicago offered "the best of both worlds," she said. "Chicago has the food, culture, and energy of a large city but all the benefits of being in the Midwest where people are friendly and approachable."

> "Giving back through United Way is important to me because I see the value of this work in improving and lifting up our entire community.

She immediately started making connections and building relationships while in law school and landed a summer internship at DLA Piper. Katie spent her first year at the firm as one of the inaugural Krantz Fellows. She focused solely on pro bono work supporting education for children and DLA Piper's nonprofit affiliate dedicated to global pro bono projects.

Today, Katie is a highly respected and sought after real estate attorney. Last year, she was named co-managing partner at DLA Piper and recognized by Crain's Chicago Business 40 Under 40.

Amid her success, Katie has remained committed to serving her community through pro bono work—while also giving back through United Way of Metro Chicago. She has served on United Way's Campaign Cabinet for four years, hosted gatherings, made connections, and been an enthusiastic advocate of our work throughout the region. Katie has also helped coordinate opportunities for DLA Piper to volunteer through United Way. Employees have packed hundreds of snack packs and hygiene kits for individuals and families in need.

"Giving back through United Way is important to me because I see the value of this work in improving and lifting up our entire community," Katie said. United Way's Neighborhood Network Initiative invests directly in communities and walks alongside residents and organizations leading tangible transformation like the Aspire Center for Workforce Innovation in Austin and the Healthy Lifestyle Hub in Auburn Gresham.

Katie values this tangible impact and how it intersects with her own work leading real estate and development. "I get to feel like I'm helping grow and improve the community, by facilitating investment, creating construction and permanent jobs, enhancing the tax base, and improving affordability," she said. "This is critical to the long-term success of Chicagoland and ensuring it continues to be a world class city and global leader."

Our success as a city is rooted in community and collaboration. United Way is grateful for our generous civic leaders like Katie who believe in the power of working together to create a region where everyone can thrive.

"In recent years, Chicago and other major cities have faced new and unique challenges with population loss, financial challenges, and other headwinds," Katie said. "I think we're fortunate in that we have an incredible business community that has a long history and culture of civic engagement. I'm hoping we can continue to leverage that community to help the region face these challenges.

JOIN US! Donate today and help build a stronger Chicago region where all our neighbors can thrive.

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