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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KAI SCHNITKER RECEIVE AWARD FROM PRAIRIELAND UNITED WAY

JACKSONVILLE, ILLINOIS...Helen Baldwin Award

The Helen Baldwin Distinguished Service Award was developed in 1994 to recognize individuals who go above and beyond in their volunteer activities for Prairieland United Way. It was named for its first recipient, who chaired 2 campaigns, and served as residential and business committee chair for many years. She continues to support United Way, both financially and with her time. Some past recipients include Linda Donovan, Joy French Becker, Ernie and Helen Downey, Mike Halsne, Bev Coats, Bob Sibert, Paul White, Bob and Janet Chipman, Gary Scott, Andy and Lori Smith, and most recently David and Nicole Meyer.

Board President, Amy Quigg, presented the award on behalf of the Prairieland United Way with the following words. There are so many individuals who are deserving of the Helen Baldwin Award. We should all be thankful for the communities we live in and for the wonderful people who assist those in need.

In the heart of our community stands a figure synonymous with leadership, generosity, and unwavering dedication – Kai Schnitker. His journey through various realms of community service and professional excellence paints a portrait of a man who not only leads but uplifts those around him. From spearheading local initiatives to steering the helm at First National Bank of Arenzville as President and CEO, Kai's contributions have left their mark.

Kai's past service to the Prairieland United Way Board of Directors, role as the 1993 Campaign Co-Chair, and current support on our Advisory Cabinet, are a testament to his enduring commitment to community welfare and his capability to mobilize resources for the greater good.

His tenure with the Kiwanis Club epitomizes his commitment to nurturing the future. Having served as a past president and being a member for many years, Kai played a pivotal role in the seamless transition of the Robbie McEvers Youth Golf Tournament into the capable hands of the Kiwanis Club. His efforts ensured the continuity of this cherished community event, showcasing his foresight and dedication to youth development.

Beyond Kiwanis, Kai's leadership has been felt in the business community through his active involvement with the Chamber of Commerce. As a former chairman and a member of the Chamber Contact Club, he has been a driving force behind initiatives that foster business growth and community cohesion. His work with the Jacksonville Police Pension Board of Trustees further demonstrates his commitment to public service and community safety.

Kai's financial acumen shines brightly in his role as the treasurer of the Ken Bradbury Foundation, where he manages resources to support local arts and education.

His passion for community and youth extends to his involvement with Crimson Pride, where he served as President, and his time coaching YMCA basketball and T-ball, as well as Elks T-ball. These roles highlight Kai's belief in the transformative power of sports and mentorship in shaping young lives.

At the helm of First National Bank of Arenzville, Kai's leadership qualities shine. His approachability, combined with a strong ability to make decisions, showcases a leader who values inclusivity and action. Described as a natural encourager with a great sense of humor, Kai's ability to listen and incorporate others' opinions makes him a beloved figure both in and out of the boardroom.

In Kai, we see the embodiment of a perfect blend of caring, personable leadership, bolstered by a robust ability to navigate challenges with a smile. His contributions to our community through support of Prairieland United Way underscore a legacy of positive impact and unwavering dedication. Kai's journey is a beacon of inspiration, proving that with compassion, humor, and decisive action, one can indeed make a significant difference in the world.

For more information about Prairieland United Way, please contact Karen Walker at 217-245-4557.

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