

For Immediate Release

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Headshot of Michael Ramos, UWTC President & CEO



United Way of Tompkins County Announces Retirement of Michael Ramos as President & CEO

Ithaca, NY – January 28, 2026 United Way of Tompkins County’s Board Chair, Michael Pehinec, announces the retirement plans of UWTC President & CEO, Michael Ramos, effective February 3, 2026. Ramos’ leadership of the organization began in 2023 when he arrived in Ithaca to fill the position with a previous fifteen years of service as Executive Director of the Church Council of Greater Seattle.

Pehinec shares: “While Michael's retirement brings a mix of emotions, it also offers a moment to reflect on his extraordinary leadership that has shaped our organization and strengthened the mission we all care about so deeply. For just under three years, Michael has guided this organization with vision, integrity, and a steadfast commitment to the people we serve. Under his leadership, we have grown in impact, expanded our reach, and built programs that continue to change lives. We strive to carry on that legacy as he transitions to a much-deserved retirement.”

During his tenure at UWTC, Ramos established the Flourishing Communities and Workforce Development Tables and oversaw UWTC’s expanded support of impact partners and the mission driven sector through activities such as shared resources projects and advocacy training. He serves on the Tompkins County Workforce Development Board and Cayuga Health (Centralus) Community Engagement Committee.

Ramos’ retirement marks a conclusion of more than 40 years of community service in New York City, Oakland, Seattle and Ithaca. “I look forward to a new chapter in my life,

continuing in less visible ways to contribute to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of the Beloved Community.”

“United Way of Tompkins County’s Board of Directors anticipates sharing an additional message regarding leadership of the organization soon,” states Pehinec.

United Way of Tompkins County mobilizes our community to action so that all people can thrive. In collaboration with others, we address human need and create conditions for community health, youth opportunities, financial opportunities, and community resilience.

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