

ABOUT

William Aramony



United Way
of Snohomish County

OUR MISSION

Leading positive change that transforms our community and improves people's lives in Snohomish County.

Background

In February 1992, William Aramony resigned as president and CEO of United Way of America (now United Way Worldwide) under allegations that he conspired to defraud United Way of hundreds of thousands of dollars. On April 3, 1995, Mr. Aramony was convicted in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia of various counts of conspiracy, fraud, and filing false tax returns. He was sentenced to 84 months in prison followed by three years of supervised release and a fine of \$300,000; he served a six-year sentence and was released from federal prison on September 28, 2001. Mr. Aramony passed away on November 11, 2011.

Neither United Way of America as an organization, nor any local United Ways, were charged with any wrongdoing in this matter.

United Way of Snohomish County's Response

United Way of Snohomish County was never impacted directly by the illegal acts of Mr. Aramony. However, at the onset of the controversy, we took the allegations very seriously. Our board members, volunteers and staff were deeply concerned at the erosion of public trust and instances of excess and mismanagement at United Way of America (UWA). United Way of Snohomish County suspended payment of dues until all questions were addressed and changes were in place at UWA. The sentencing of Mr. Aramony and two other former UWA executives were necessary steps toward the restoration of long-term trust in United Way of America and, by association, independent local United Ways throughout the country.

United Way Today

United Way Worldwide is a very different organization today than it was in 1992. It has undergone major governance and structural changes. In partnership with the Board of Governors, a rigorous new audit, budget and other financial controls were implemented, along with a Code of Ethics, to ensure that the problems associated with former management can never occur again. United Way organizations have also worked vigorously to re-define United Way. Today, United Way is more than just a fundraiser; it is creating impact in communities around the world. United Ways are at the forefront of building partnerships, forging consensus and maximizing resources to address critical community needs.

United Way is now a worldwide movement of nearly 1,800 community-based local United Ways in 41 countries and territories generating more than \$5 billion in annual revenue, and is now a model of accountability in the non-profit sector. It advances the common good, creating opportunities for a better life for all, by focusing on education, income and health. The United Way movement mobilizes millions to action—to give, advocate and volunteer—to improve the conditions in which they live.

To find out more about United Way of Snohomish County, including how you can find help, how to volunteer, and all the latest information on how United Way serves our community, please visit our website at www.uwsc.org.