



United Way of
Southwestern Pennsylvania



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

JIM BLATNICK

What is your name, title, and department?

Jim Blatnick, AFL-CIO Community Services Liaison, Donor Relations

Can you tell me about your role at United Way?

My job is to ensure union members and workers across our region know where and how to get help when they need it. I also encourage union members who are able to give back to their community by volunteering, advocating and giving financially to United Way.

What do you love best about working here?

I like being able to help working men and women find the help they need by connecting them to United Way's partner agencies that enable them to meet basic needs and move toward financial stability.

How did you end up working at United Way?

I landed this job through a partnership with United Way and Organized Labor that has been going on for more than 80 years. The program started when troops were returning from World War II and unions were helping them get back to civilian life and connecting them to jobs. United Way was doing the same thing so the two decided to join efforts. As a union member, it is second nature to help one another and that is what brought me to United Way.

Who is the most famous person you have met?

My unique role has allowed me to meet many locally famous people from sports figures to politicians. The person who stands out the most is Franco Harris.

What are your interests outside of work? (Share your family life, pets, hobbies, etc.)

I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, camping, hunting and live music. I also own a trampoline park. I got into the trampoline park business through my sister and brother-in-law. They first opened one in Tampa, Florida and told me it was a good business to invest in. So here I am, four years into co-owning the largest indoor trampoline park in western PA – Altitude Trampoline Park at the Clearview Mall in Butler, PA.



Do you have a talent or skill that we would be surprised to know you have?

I'm a pretty good cook. Anything that has tomato sauce is my favorite. I grew up watching my mom make a fresh pot of sauce every Sunday for dinner. But I also have a passion for cooking in my smoker which has endless options.

SPEED ROUND: CHOOSE ONE!



Morning person **or** night owl?



Breakfast **or** dinner?



Coffee **or** tea?



Dog person **or** cat person?

