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333 S Wabash Ave. Suite 2750
Chicago, IL 60604

onehopeunited.org

An Evening of Hope

Coffee, Cookies, & Conversation

THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2021 | 7PM CST

Keynote Speaker



DREION

Dreion is a recording artist, contestant on this year's season of American Idol, advocate for foster care reform, husband, and father.

Originally from Omaha, Nebraska, he graduated from Berklee College of Music, was named "Performer of The Year" in 2019 by the Berklee Urban Service Awards, and has performed at the Grand Ole Opry, the Boston Boys and Girls Club Annual Charity Gala, the College World Series, and Gillette Stadium. Dreion's first album, "I Am Life" was released in 2020.

"I consider myself to be a soul therapist! My music heals, inspires, sheds light, and resonates with the deepest parts of the soul through my message of hope. My story is a powerful journey of trauma, tragedy, and triumph that the world needs to hear. My artistry brings people together to celebrate love, life, and liberty through the unifying language of music and culture." – Dreion

Mission Moments

ACHIEVING INDEPENDENCE THROUGH SERVICE

With the support and guidance shared by One Hope United's REBOUND transitional living program staff members, Pvt. Kenon Bradford took important strides forward that helped him become the successful military service member he is today.

When Pvt. Bradford first arrived at REBOUND, his main focus was on earning his GED. Pvt. Bradford shared that a challenge he'd faced at previous group homes was a lack of focus on skill-building, so he was happy to find the resources he needed to work towards independence at One Hope United. Glen Seymour, Lead Youth Care Worker, helped him get his first job at Popeye's, and Patricia Williams, Senior Supervisor, helped him study and obtain the necessary documents for both his driver's license and GED. Pvt. Bradford shared "if it wasn't for Miss Patricia, I may not be in the Army today." Pvt. Bradford is proud of the progress he's made, and to be serving his country.

FOSTERING FAMILY CONNECTION

Isaiah was placed with his then-foster parents, Monica and Jonathan Dreyer, just two days after he was born. He has been in their care ever since and was adopted in February 2021.

Monica and Jonathan have been involved with foster care for 7 years. They have two biological children, and two adopted children, including Isaiah. Their One Hope United Adoption Specialist, Lindsay Dodich, shared that the Dreyers are very loving and family oriented. They regularly spend time with family, so Isaiah knows his cousins well, including Grace, who is legally his cousin, but is also his older biological sister. Isaiah is also able to have a relationship with his two other biological siblings, who are placed together.

Isaiah is now 1.5-years old. He is described as happy, playful, and adventurous. He enjoys the outdoors, whether he is on his baby swing in the backyard or playing in the pool. Monica shared that he has an infectious smile, with eyes that light up a room.

Schedule

To view the event visit: donate.onecause.com/eoh

6:45 pm CST **Preshow**

7:00 pm CST **Dr. Charles A. Montorio-Archer, President and CEO**
Welcome and Remarks

Dreion
Keynote Address

Dr. Charles A. Montorio-Archer, President and CEO, with
Dreion, Keynote Speaker
Q&A Conversation

Kate Shaffer, Board Secretary & Fund Development Chair
Presentation of the Leadership in Giving Award

The Young Family
Leadership in Giving Award

Mission Moment
Achieving Independence Through Service

Jonni Miklos-Finch
Presentation of the Ermit L. Finch Impact Award

Howard and Chris Schnitzer
Ermit L. Finch Impact Award

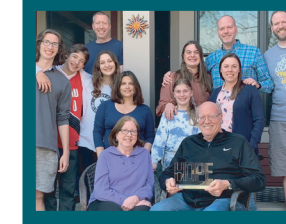
Mission Moment
Fostering Family Connection

Dr. Charles A. Montorio-Archer, President and CEO
Presentation of the President's Award

Flaviane Carvalho
President's Award

Dr. Charles A. Montorio-Archer, President and CEO
Closing Remarks

Award Recipients



LEADERSHIP IN GIVING AWARD: THE YOUNG FAMILY

Throughout their personal and professional lives, RJ and Judy Young have always sought to make an impact for children and families through philanthropy. After attending a One Hope United event in Lake Villa in 2013, they felt strongly that OHU's mission was one they both wanted to engage with. RJ built a successful business career with Allstate over 35 years, and currently contributes a depth of knowledge in areas including strategic planning through his role as Chairman of OHU's Board of Directors. RJ and Judy's volunteerism and generous donations inspired their three sons, David, Eric and Jeff, as well as David's wife, Lori and Jeff's wife, Erika, to give generously of their time, talents, and resources to benefit OHU. One Hope United is grateful for the contributions of the Young family.

Annually, the Leadership in Giving Award is given to those who through their philanthropic support, have significantly advanced the mission of One Hope United, and because of their generosity, have inspired others to give as well. As a family, they've supported One Hope United as their charity of choice, and sharing their passion have engaged others with the organization. In addition to inspiring friends and colleagues, the Young family's legacy of philanthropy has crossed generations.



ERMIT L. FINCH IMPACT AWARD: HOWARD AND CHRIS SCHNITZER

Howard first learned about the impact of One Hope United when he visited the Lake Villa Residential Home and spoke with former Ermit L. Finch Impact award recipient, Joyce Heneberry, about the program. Since then, Howard and Chris have been loyal advocates for the organization. From serving on OHU's Board of Directors, including a term as Board Chairman, and serving on the Lake County Ambassador Board, to chairing the Annual Golf Outing committee, Howard has used his talents and resources to connect new supporters across the Chicagoland area with One Hope United. Howard and Chris have also mentored many young people who lived at OHU's Lake Villa Residential Home, often celebrating birthdays and extending invitations to spend the holidays at their home even after youth have aged out of care.

Howard and Chris were close personal friends of Ermit L. Finch. They share Ermit's immense capacity for connecting people and bringing others along with them on their journey.

The Ermit L. Finch Impact Award recognizes a member, or members, of the One Hope United community, who make a meaningful impact in the lives of the children, youth, and families One Hope United serves. Howard and Chris embody that spirit of service, impact, and community.



PRESIDENT'S AWARD: FLAVIANE CARVALHO

Flaviane Carvalho is a mother, and advocate for child abuse prevention. On January 1, 2021, as a family of four was seated at the Mrs. Potato Restaurant in Orlando, the manager- Flaviane - noticed that only three meals were ordered and the young boy with the family was not served anything. When she inquired, she was told the boy would eat at home. After observing his quiet demeanor, and bruises on his arm, she wrote several notes, which she discreetly held up asking if he needed help. When he nodded his head, Flaviane called the police. The parents were arrested, and the young boy and his sister were placed into foster care.

The President's Award is extended to someone who believes in the resiliency of the human spirit – who advocates for those whom society has deemed disadvantaged, disenfranchised, or marginalized by seeking to build a better future for all. The honoree remains mission-driven while acknowledging that everybody must paddle together toward the same goal. Flaviane took action and sought a better future for both children that evening and has continued to advocate for the safety and well-being of children.