



United Way  
of Southwest Oklahoma

United Way  
**SUCCESS BY 6**<sup>™</sup>  
A Smart Start Oklahoma Community

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## United Way Names Mark Woommavovah as President and Chief Executive Officer

**Lawton, Okla** – Southwest Oklahoma native Mark Woommavovah has been named President and Chief Executive Officer of the United Way of Southwest Oklahoma. W o o m m a v o v a h succeeds Lauren Ellis, who accepted a position as CEO of United Way of Norman in Norman, Oklahoma.

“We are excited about having someone of Mark’s caliber on board,” said Natalie Fitch, Chairman of the Board of Directors. “He brings a wealth of experience and skills in relationship building, team building, and project implementation, as well as a great knowledge of the southwest Oklahoma community and strong business acumen. With his leadership, we will continue to expand United Way’s impact on quality of life across southwest Oklahoma.”

Mark E. Woommavovah is the former chairman of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma, a retired lieutenant colonel of the United States Army, and a published author.

After being awarded a scholarship to Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College and receiving his associate degree, Woommavovah joined the Army and attended the University of Oklahoma on an ROTC scholarship. He graduated from the University’s ROTC Commissioning Class of ’92, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and a commission as a military police officer. Woommavovah retired after a 31-year career in the U.S. Army and is one of only a dozen Comanche Indians to earn the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Woommavovah is a former leadership and talent scout and senior military science instructor for the University of Oklahoma’s ROTC program.

In addition to serving as the Comanche Nation Chairman, Woommavovah has served as the Oklahoma Representative for the Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee (DSTAC), a member of the Kiowa Comanche Apache Indian Land Use Committee Board, an alternate delegate to the Health and Human Services Secretary’s Tribal Advisory Committee for Oklahoma, and an alternate to the board of directors of the Indian Gaming Association’s Southern Plains Region.

Mark Woommavovah has also served as a member of the United Way of Southwest Oklahoma Board of Directors, Lawton Fort Sill Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, The Greater Lawton Rotary Club Board of Trustees, Bacone College Board of Trustees, and a member of the Boomer Toastmaster Club.

An avid runner and member of the OK Runner Team, Woommavovah has shared his love of running and inspired it in others by coaching OU’s Army ROTC 10 Mile Team and Sooner Battalion Running and Triathlon Club, mentoring and advising OU student-athletes,

volunteering to coach Cleveland County Family YMCA's youth track and cross-country team, and authoring the children's book titled *The Little Indian Runner*.

Mark is married to his wife, Amber, and they have three sons, Marcus, Michael, and Dylan.

"I am honored to serve United Way of Southwest Oklahoma. UWSWOK is committed to serving our community and making a difference through small acts of kindness. Our organization believes that expressing gratitude and giving back to our communities creates a positive ripple effect in our lives, leading to a happy and purpose-filled existence, meaningful relationships, and a strong connection to the community," said Woommavovah.

United Way of Southwest Oklahoma works to understand and address top priorities in the community, which the organization has framed within four impact areas: education, health, financial stability, and basic needs. UWSWOK currently funds 20 local non-profit organizations that provide life-changing services to those in need.

**About the United Way of Southwest Oklahoma:**

*The United Way funds 20 local agencies and their programs addressing community issues. United Way is a charitable organization and depends on volunteers and the generosity of the local community to fulfill its mission. For more information, please visit [www.uwswok.org](http://www.uwswok.org).*

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