

Pictured: Jim Milne, founder, and Dave Dahl, president

## **ABOUT THE COMPANY**

Milne Construction Co., headquartered in Portland, designs and builds mausoleums and does master planning for cemeteries throughout the world. The company and its employees have donated more than \$1 million since 1971, when Jim Milne, the company's founder, rallied other construction companies to support United Way.

## **WHY WE GIVE**

Mr. Milne, who immigrated to America from Scotland, said, "America to outsiders has many things that attract people to it, including the opportunity to succeed. There's a saying engraved on the statue of liberty that stayed in my mind when I came to America — 'Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.' Any country that would do this had something that others didn't. In America there's an acceptance of healing the poor and troubled, people feel they have a responsibility for that." That is why Mr. Milne gives back to the community, and that's why he made philanthropy an integral part of the culture at Milne.

Milne Construction Co. also encourages employee volunteering. As Mr. Milne said, "Volunteering helps people get out of themselves, opens their minds. It allows a better side of our own personality to open up and flourish."

## **WHY UNITED WAY**

Asked why the company specifically chose United Way as its partner in giving, Dave Dahl, company president, said, "We respect that United Way does the right thing at the right time. We're excited about your new focus on childhood poverty. A successful company like Milne has a responsibility to help people in poverty succeed, and as a parent, I know how important it is that kids have the support they need to do well."

## TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL WORKPLACE CAMPAIGN

Milne uses several strategies to make giving back a part of the culture — strategies that other companies may find effective too. These include:

- Start building your company culture from the moment you interview a potential new hire.
- Include information about United Way, as well as a pledge form, in your hiring packet.
- Suggest donation amounts based on salary ranges.
- Match employee gifts.
- Leadership should participate and be ambassadors for giving.
- Set aside time in your employees' schedules to hear from a United Way representative.

Milne Construction Co. is a dedicated community partner, and they are building a stronger community every day. Thank you, Milne and all of your generous employees!