

eliminating racism  
empowering women

**ywca**

**Mankato**

## **WOMAN OF DISTINCTION 2019**

### **Nancy Zallek**

Nancy Zallek is the president and chief executive officer of Mankato Area Foundation (MAF) and an advocate for the local nonprofits. Nancy dedicates her work to building a community of individuals who believe in the strength of giving while supporting the work of the nonprofit sector.

Since joining MAF in 2009, Nancy has grown the foundation's assets from \$2M to \$18M and annual granting from \$50,000 to over \$800,000. Such growth has led to large-scale community initiatives, such as It's Time to Talk, Kiwanis Holiday Lights and the Fallenstein Playground, as well as increased scholarship opportunities for local students. Nancy also led the strategy to create and design the Shared Spaces nonprofit center, a collaborative workspace for regional organizations and their leadership teams. What Nancy values most of all, however, is the relationships she builds with people in our community. As she puts it, "Every day I get to connect thoughtful donors with incredible organizations and causes – it doesn't get better than that."

The fifth generation of her family to grow up in Mankato, Nancy served as vice president of Brett's Department Store, executive director of Mankato Ballet Company, and executive director of the United Way of St. Peter. Nancy's volunteer work includes the Mankato Clinic Foundation, Twin Rivers Council for the Arts, E2020, First Presbyterian Church, St. Peter School District, and Gustavus Adolphus College.

She is married to her husband Mark and has three really awesome kids (though she may be a bit biased): Taylor (wife Annika), Bailey (husband Nick), and Brett.