

**Bridge Philanthropic Consulting Celebrates the Life of  
Ralph Dickerson, Jr.  
Former President and CEO of The United Way of New York City**



**Ralph Dickerson, Jr.** was a pioneer in the nonprofit world and a mentor to many. From 1988 to 2005, he was president and chief professional officer of the United Way of New York City. Under his leadership, the organization became not only the largest private funder of human services in New York City, but also one of the largest United Way organizations in the nation, growing its revenue from \$7.5 million to \$135 million. Dickerson held that position for more than twenty-five years in various local United Ways, including St. Louis, Missouri; Madison, Wisconsin; Cleveland, Ohio; and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

“I first met Ralph more than 30 years ago when I was a rising fundraising professional working with the United Way of Houston,” said Dwayne Ashley, CEO, Bridge Philanthropic Consulting. “Like many young professionals, I was mentored by Ralph and gained a wealth of knowledge from him about fundraising and nonprofit leadership. Until the time of his passing, I could always count on him to share his time, knowledge, and expertise. He will certainly be missed.”

In addition, while leading the United Way of New York City, he used his extensive knowledge of community-based human services agencies to broker and partner with government, foundations, and businesses to create groundbreaking initiatives that successfully addressed the city’s human care issues and schools’ high student dropout rate.

A native of Alton, Illinois, Dickerson graduated from Southern Illinois University in 1969 with a BS in business administration, and he received an MBA from the University of Wisconsin. Dickerson served as chairman of the board of the Faith Center for Community Development and was a member of the board of visitors of the New York City Police Department and the visitors' committee of the School of Management and Urban Affairs of the New School for Social Research.

Upon leaving the United Way of New York City, Dickerson took on the position of president and CEO of the Abyssinian Development Corporation. It was organized by Abyssinian Baptist Church under the direction of the late Reverend Calvin Butts to serve the housing needs of the Harlem community, one of the city's largest housing development organizations. Dickerson served in that position for several years to bring stability to an institution that was providing critical services to the neighborhood of Harlem.

He served on several boards and was an active investor in several local developments and corporations. He was inducted into the Alpha Kappa Psi fraternity. Dickerson garnered many prestigious awards and recognitions for his commitment to the community and his success in the nonprofit world. He was known and admired throughout the greater New York community and many other communities where he contributed his time, energy, and leadership.

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