Dear Friends of Women United,

Women United is about to reach yet another milestone. This fall, we will be presenting our 20th Human Services Grant Award!

I've had the honor of being part of Women United for nine years, and it has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. Not only have I learned about the needs in our community and the incredible non-profits that work to meet those needs, but I have also been able to make a difference while engaging with some amazing women. That is the real benefit of Collective Giving: most of us would be unable to do this on our own. But together, collectively, we can and have made a significant impact.

Through our Women United membership, we have already awarded 18 grants and raised nearly half a million dollars to improve the health, education and well-being of thousands of local women and children. We've accomplished this not through fundraising and events, but through the power of Collective Giving.

Please join us for our Grant Finalist Presentations on August 29. This is your opportunity to participate directly in the grant cycle, which is at the core Women United's mission. Twenty-one volunteers have spent months evaluating proposals and visiting non-profits. Their efforts have brought us this far. It is now your responsibility to choose our two 2017 Grant Award winners.

The Grant Committee is just one Women United committee and we are always looking for more volunteers. If you have creative ideas on how to further engage our membership and other members of our community, please let us know.

Together, collectively, we will continue our mission of helping local women and children for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Kimberley Martin, Chair
Women United Steering Committee

You Are Invited

2017 Grant Finalists Presentation
Tuesday, August 29
5:30 pm
CAAR Conference Room
550 Hillsdale Drive
Charlottesville
RSVP to WomenUnited@UnitedWayTJA.org by August 25

Our Mission - Engage with like-minded women, learn about community needs and philanthropy, and leverage collective giving to support human services for local women and children.

www.WomenUnitedCville.org
A hallmark of Women United is our diligence in discerning which programs receive our two grants of $25,000. On this page and the next, are summaries of the five finalists’ proposals, carefully chosen by the Grant Committee from 18 organizations’ submissions.

To hear about each of these applicant organizations, plan on attending the Grant Finalists Presentation on August 29th at 5:30 p.m. (RSVP to WomenUnited@UnitedWayTJA.org by August 25th.) After the presentation, all members will receive an email with additional applicant information and proposal details, in addition to voting instructions. Please take the time necessary to learn about each worthy proposal and cast your vote accordingly.

African American Teaching Fellows (AATF)
The mission of AATF is to increase multicultural awareness in the public school systems. AATF is requesting funding to provide college tuition assistance to five African American student fellows in exchange for their commitment to teach in the Charlottesville-Albemarle area after graduation. Fellows receive professional guidance to develop leadership skills, as well as opportunities to connect to our local community.

Georgia’s Healing House (GHH)
This program serves women during their initial stages of recovery from alcohol and drug dependency by providing a safe place to live, an individualized treatment plan, mentorship, and support for reentering the workplace. Of the 36 women who resided at GHH last year, 12 completed the program, 12 are still receiving care, and 12 left without completing the program. GHH is seeking funding to support the cost of operating for two months. The house accommodates up to 12 women at the cost of about $1,000 per month.
Piedmont Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
CASA trains Court Appointed Special Advocates, who work one-on-one with abused and endangered children and assist the courts in determining the best environment to ensure each child’s safety and well-being. CASA seeks funding to help recruit, screen, and train 30 new volunteers, as well as support the estimated 100 currently active volunteers. CASA served 235 children in the first seven months of 2017, but still has children on its waiting list. Eighty-three per cent of the children served are from households surviving at or below the poverty line.

Women's Center at UVA—Middle School Mentoring Program
The Women's Center requests support for two mentoring programs in Charlottesville and Albemarle middle schools, the Young Women Leaders Program (YWLP) and the Men's Leadership Project (MLP). Middle school students struggling with self-confidence, peer relationships issues, and other stumbling blocks receive support from a mentor individually and in group settings. About 75 UVA undergraduates commit to work with 75 children in the program each year. The $322 per child requested for these programs covers activities, materials, curriculum supplies, and t-shirts, in addition to special gatherings and mentor trainings.

The Women's Initiative (TWI)
TWI seeks support for the operation of critical mental health services to 3,200 women through its core programming. Women served come from diverse socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds; many have been the victims of abuse, suffer from trauma, and face a variety of challenges such as death of a family member, divorce, poverty, and post-traumatic stress disorder. TWI offers mental health counseling, social support, education and outreach to those needing help coping with depression, anxiety and trauma through individual and group therapies.

Grant Awards Voting
Voting will take place between August 30th and September 11th. In order to maintain the integrity of the grant process, please do not attempt to influence the vote of any other Women United member.
As immigration has become a frequent headline across the nation, the Women United Programming Committee identified it as a topic of interest to our membership and hosted a Panel Discussion on May 3, 2017 at the Omni Hotel. More than seventy members and guests attended.

During the conversation, facilitated by Cathy Train, United Way-Thomas Jefferson Area, we learned that of the 21 million worldwide refugees, fewer than ½ of 1% are settled in the United States, and only about 250 resettle in Charlottesville per year. In Albemarle County, ten percent of the population is foreign born. The percentage is slightly higher in Charlottesville at twelve percent. And, the path to citizenship is long and difficult, even for individuals with a “path to citizenship”, such as, marriage or green card status. There is no legal path to citizenship for illegal immigrants.

Of particular note was the impact immigration has on Albemarle County Schools. One school board audience member indicated that sixty-nine different languages are spoken by county students. Other school representatives shared how children are reporting bullying incidents and many immigrant parents are not equipped to help their children adapt to language and cultural differences at school.

Based on the panel discussion and questions that followed, there is concern for addressing immigration issues in our community. The feedback was that this discussion was timely and helpful.