"Linked, Informed and Educated"

“I can promise you that women working together - linked, informed and educated - can bring peace and prosperity to this forsaken planet.” - Isabel Allende

This quote holds particular meaning when put into the context of Women United. Everything we have accomplished - over a quarter million dollars for non-profits serving women and children in our community - has been accomplished by women working together. When we put our minds, hearts and yes, our dollars together, we are stronger than any one individual.

We’ve awarded 11 grants over the past 8 years and our mission remains the same. We are a collective giving organization and our collective strength has brought education, counseling, healthcare, job skills, advocacy and even food to the people who need it most. We have hosted numerous events to raise awareness of issues in our community (including our upcoming event on Feb 20th), and have recently added some socials to our calendar (page 4) so our Members feel more connected to one another and have the opportunity to get to know our Founders and Steering Committee.

Our work has just begun. Unfortunately there will always be women and children who need our help. We cannot do it without you. If you haven’t had a chance to join or renew your Membership yet, we’ve enclosed a 2014 Membership Form in this newsletter.

Please join us for our first event of 2014, detailed below and on page 3. And if you have any suggestions for other ways Women United can help our community, please contact us. Together - linked, informed and educated - we will be able to accomplish so much more.

Maia Bannan: Maia_Bannan@yahoo.com
Amy Hughes: Amy_Hughes@cable.comcast.com

February 20th Event

The Missing Voice on Gender Equality: Men Speak Up!

Thursday, February 20, 8:30am at the Omni Hotel

Despite the fact that women make up 50% of the workforce, the percentage of women in leadership roles has stagnated. Men have been the missing voice on gender equality, thus the next big step has to include them. In that spirit, Women United has put together a panel of male business leaders who are trying to make a difference. They will discuss their understanding of our gender-unequal society and what they, as men, can do about it.

Register by Monday, February 17:
WomenUnited@UnitedWayTJA.org or 434-972-1701

More details on page 3.
Meet Maia Bannan

If you’ve attended any Women United events or socials, you’ve probably met Maia. She has been a vital part of our organization since 2008 when she moved back from Atlanta to her hometown of Charlottesville with her husband, Glenn, and their then 1 year old son, Casner.

“A dear friend shared with me the details of Women United. I joined and fell in love immediately... I think graduating from Sweet Briar College, an all women’s college, opened my eyes to women’s issues, which has naturally progressed to include children’s issues too.”

Maia initially served on Women United’s Membership Committee, which led to her being our Membership Co-Chair and Steering Committee Secretary. In 2012, Sue Friedman asked Maia to join her as Steering Committee Co-Chair, a role that Maia now shares with Amy Hughes.

“I wanted to be involved in something where I felt what I was doing would make a difference locally and I wanted to meet other fabulous women - I’m kind of a social person. But what I didn’t have was extra time. Women United fit the bill on all three accounts!”

Maia has found time for a number of causes. She recently accepted the position of Development Coordinator with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Central Blue Ridge. She is currently chairing the BIG GIG 2014 with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Virginia. Maia is also on the 2014 Bill Howard Golf and Derby Party Committees with the Alzheimer’s Association of Central and Western Virginia and is on the United Way - Thomas Jefferson Area’s signature fundraising event committee.

When not at work or involved with committee projects, you’ll find Maia with her now six year old son, who she says “keeps my life happily in a constant state of harmony and chaos.” Maia is also an avid reader. She is in a Book Club she calls “fantastic” and she, Glenn and Casner have started to read the Harry Potter books as a family. Maia and Glenn also have a new obsession: paddle.

When asked about challenges and opportunities women have in our community, Maia answered “I see both in Charlottesville. Although there’s always an opportunity to advance, hire, elect and mentor women more, we have amazing outlets available to only women such as the Business Women’s Round Table, Quadruplicity, The Junior League, The Women’s Initiative, Charlottesville Woman by the Daily Progress, Charlottesville NOW (National Organization for Women), Women United - and of course MANY others!

I am excited that our February event will touch on this topic and encourage everyone to attend, bring a friend and ask questions!”

Our 2014 Underwriters

CMA Carter Myers Automotive

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The Missing Voice on Gender Equality: Men Speak Up!

Sheryl Sandberg, Anne Marie Slaughter and our 2013 Luncheon Keynote Speaker, Lynn Povich, all have one thing in common: they are all concerned about the fact that women have not made the “progress” we’ve been fighting for since the 1960’s, and each of them has written books and articles about the subject.

While speaking to Women October, Ms. Povich made with our Members: men in the gender equality get that conversation started. Women United is hosting business leaders who have are trying to do something

Please join us on Thursday, Omni Hotel. Our moderator Executive Director of the (www.fullbright.org). Our Dallas, Managing Partner office; H. Carter Myers III, Carter Myers Automotive; and Donald Sundgren, UVA’s Chief Facilities Officer.

We expect a lively discussion and hope that our Members will bring male friends and coworkers!

Please register by Monday, February 17: WomenUnited@UnitedWayTJA.org or 434-972-1701. The event is FREE and open to the public. Free parking and refreshments provided.

Our 2013 Grant Recipients

On October 1, 2013, Women United awarded two $20,000 grants. We have now given $267,825 to non-profits serving women and children in our community!

Blue Ridge Area Food Bank - Women United’s 2013 grant is funding the Family Backpack Program for 2 years at Yancey Elementary, where 61.9% of families live between 0-185% of the federal poverty level. This Program provides children of these families with a backpack full of healthy foods every weekend and holiday. The goal is to alleviate child food insecurity at the household level.

Jefferson Area CHIP - CHIP partners with parents to provide a nurturing, stimulating, and optimal early learning environment for young children ages 0-7 living in poverty in Charlottesville and Albemarle. Women United’s 2013 grant is supporting the salary of a Family Support Worker/Parent Educator who conducts at least monthly home visits with 50 children to promote kindergarten readiness and to increase the likelihood of continued school success.

We are so proud to support these organizations, and look forward to doing even more in 2014!

February 20
Omni Charlottesville

Our 2013 Grant Committee Co-Chairs, Peggy Echols and Peppy Linden (far left and far right) with 2013 Grant recipients Judy Smith of Jefferson CHIP and Michael McKeen of the Food Bank, 2nd from the right is our 2013 Luncheon Keynote Speaker, Lynn Povich, - Peggy Harrison Photography

You Can Be a Part of It!
Join or renew your Membership now! Every Membership contributes to our Collective Fund. Complete and mail the enclosed sheet or use our secure online form at www.WomenUnitedCharlottesville.info

CORPORATE MEMBERS
*Indicates Underwriter Status

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Kimberlee Barret-Johnson, Barret-Johnson Associates
Sue Battani, Cville Concierge*
Liza Myers Borches, Carter Myers Automotive*
Gayle Bragg, Allen, Allen, Allen & Allen
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Kimberley Martin, Volvo of Charlottesville
Jeanne McCruker, Home Instead Senior Care
Stacey McDonough*
Royer, Carmanzos & McDonough*

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Eliz Vaughan
Erika Vasiliou
Martha Weiss
Amy Wicks-Horn
Bair Williamson
Lindsay Win
Betty Woodard
The Missing Voice on Gender Equality: Men Speak Up!
An Event Hosted by Women United - Thursday, February 20
Details on Page 3

Our 2014 Event Schedule

February
The Missing Voice on Gender Equality: Men Speak Up!
(open to the public)

March
Member Social (all Members invited)

April
Donor & Corporate Member Event
(reserved for Donor/Corporate/Underwriter Members)

May
Grant Semi-Finalist Presentations
(all Members invited)

June
Member Social (all Members invited)

September
Member Social (all Members invited)

October
Grant Award Luncheon (open to the public)

November
Membership Celebration & Open House
(open to the public)

Further details will be sent primarily via email. Please make sure we have your correct address!

Call for Volunteers!

Women United is a volunteer organization and we are always looking for members who want to be more involved. To volunteer, please contact our Co-Chairs listed below:

COMMUNICATIONS
Communications is responsible for press releases, media relations, interview logistics, our website, email communications, invitations and print newsletters. Knowledge of InDesign would be very helpful!

Kim Martin: KMartin@VolvoCvile.com

EVENTS & PROGRAMMING
Our Events Committee works with logistics and execution of all Women United events. Help during events or work on the planning process. We would love to have you on the team!

Elyta Koh: ElytaKoh@Gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP
Members of this Committee act as ambassadors for Women United, both within the community and during our events. Their job is to ensure everyone feels welcome and has a resource within the organization. We need “People” people!

Stacey McDonough: S McDonough@RCMple.com