

July
2020

Women
United in
Philanthropy

IMPORTANT DATES:
JULY 22nd
2020 Grant Finalists Presentation
JULY 24th - AUGUST 6th
Membership Grant Awards Voting

Dear Friends,

Earlier this year when asked to prepare information for our newsletter, we were reminded of the difficult job our Grant Committee has in choosing the grant finalists each year. Then in the midst of the grant process, all of our lives were greatly affected by COVID-19 and we decided it best to extend our process to allow everyone time to address the critical needs and daily changes we faced.

Our year has been full of challenges and how long this will last is unknown. But within the challenges, we've seen many positive things and want to encourage you to look for opportunities for growth, hope, healing, and showing our strength together. Women United in Philanthropy was started 15 years ago with the main focus of fostering women's philanthropy through helping our area address human service needs through collective donations. We have seen in the past few months the effect collective giving has had on people around the world and in our community and we want to keep making an impact.

We are blessed to have an abundance of non-profit organizations in our area that work hard to better

our community and provide for the needs of many women and children each year. This year they have all shown their resilience, power and capability in continuing to meet the needs of those they serve by transforming how they operate. You will see later in this newsletter information on the organizations that have been selected to move forward to our finalists presentations on July 22. We hope you will join us to learn more about them.

Thank you to every member who makes our collective giving organization successful in supporting women and children in our area during normal times and times of crisis. It is through our combined strengths, compassion, and continued commitment that WUP is able to impact so many lives in our community.

Sincerely,

Kendra Stribling, Chair
Connie Horan, Vice-Chair
Grants Committee



Kendra Stribling



Connie Horan

JOIN US!

2020 Grant Finalists Presentation

July 22, 2020 from 6 - 7p.m. on Zoom

Members are invited to register for an interactive Zoom presentation that will allow participants to ask questions of the presenters. Those who are not able to attend the live presentations will be able to view a recording shortly thereafter.

Contact WomenUnited@UnitedWayTJA.org or 434-972-1701

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.

2020 GRANT AWARD FINALISTS

A trademark of Women United in Philanthropy is our diligence in discerning which local programs supporting women and children will receive grants. This year two organizations will each receive \$25,000. On this page and the next, are summaries of the five finalists' proposals, carefully chosen by the Grant Committee from 33 organizations' submissions. Members will receive an email with voting and proposal details. Please take the time necessary to learn about each worthy proposal and cast your vote accordingly.

Albemarle Housing Improvement Program (AHIP) - Safe at Home

AHIP is the only home repair nonprofit working year-round in Charlottesville and Albemarle to ensure that families have access to critical fixes for their safety, security, health, and well-being. AHIP believes in preserving homes and protecting homeownership, and that families, working people, and senior citizens should be able to stay in their homes, stay in their communities, and hold onto their assets. AHIP is requesting funds for their Children Safe at Home program. Their objective is to complete at least 30 critical home repairs for low-income families, ensuring safe, high quality housing for local families. Data confirms that kids do better when their homes are safe, stable, and secure. Housing quality matters for children's emotional and behavioral well-being today and for their long-term economic success and stability tomorrow.

To learn more go to: <https://ahipva.org>

All Blessings Flow - Pickup and Delivery Program

All Blessings Flow is a local faith-based organization that collects, refurbishes, and redistributes medical equipment free of charge to those in need in Charlottesville, Albemarle, and surrounding counties. Clients are permanently or temporarily disabled and primarily low-income individuals who are uninsured or underinsured. They are requesting funds to purchase a used cargo van with a loading ramp. This van will allow the pick up and delivery of multiple pieces of equipment, such as hospital beds and power wheelchairs, in the same trip. With the purchase of the cargo van, they will no longer be dependent on borrowing trucks or vans, which has caused them to miss out on donations or to make clients wait to receive equipment they desperately need.

To learn more go to: <https://www.allblessingsflow.org>

The Front Porch - Roots and Wings Music Education

The Front Porch is a community music school in Charlottesville, whose mission is to make music inclusive, affordable, and accessible to all. They are requesting funds to expand The Roots and Wings Project, a free music education program that pairs at-risk and low-income youth with teaching artists with the goal of improving music skills through weekly music education programming; building self-esteem and healthy relationships through mentorships; and promoting personal empowerment through performance opportunities. Teaching artists provide music instruction directly in neighborhood community centers, detention centers, public schools, and after-school clubs. The Roots and Wings program includes Music Clubs for Kids, Music Mentors, and Hometown Choirs.

To learn more go to: <https://frontporchville.org>

VOLUNTEER

We are a volunteer organization and we need your talents and service to make great things happen. To join a committee email Chairs@WomenUnitedCville.org or reach out to a particular committee:

Communications@WomenUnitedCville.org

Membership@WomenUnitedCville.org

Events@WomenUnitedCville.org

Grants@WomenUnitedCville.org

2020 GRANT AWARD FINALISTS (CONT'D)

“Life’s persistent and most urgent question is “what are you doing for others?”
Martin Luther King, Jr.

Nearby Baby

Nearby Baby provides culturally sensitive postpartum support to families for six weeks after a baby is born or adopted, regardless of their ability to pay. Their work focuses on providing low wealth, marginalized families in Charlottesville and surrounding counties with the physical, emotional, and instructional support they need to thrive in the early weeks after childbirth. By targeting the vulnerable population of women of color, they plan on making an out-of-reach service accessible and hope to mitigate some of the disparities to their population, which is most at risk. Nearby Baby is requesting funds to train women from all cultures in culturally-sensitive postpartum doula care and to cover the cost of direct services to 18 families of color in Charlottesville with low or no income.

To learn more go to: <https://www.nearbybaby.org>

Piedmont CASA - Bridges to Success for Older Youth in Foster Care

Piedmont CASA provides trained volunteers and professional staff to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children and youth, promoting and supporting safe, permanent, and nurturing homes for these victims in the child welfare system, the community, and before the courts of the 16th Judicial District of Virginia. CASA is requesting funds for travel expenses for coaches in their Bridges to Success for Older Youth in Foster Care program. The program is designed to help older youth in our community heal and develop the skills, connections, and tools they need to lead safe and productive adult lives. The Bridges Coaches provide the mentoring and guidance the youth need to move into independent lives that are safe, healthy, and productive. The Coaches transport their clients to all areas involved in their life and are like interim family, helping them navigate the world. The travel funds requested would provide support for the coaches of 15 young women whose ages range from 13 to 21.

To learn more go to: <http://www.pcasa.org/index.php>

GRANT AWARDS VOTING

You must be a member to vote. Members who have registered and paid on or before July 22 are eligible to vote for the 2020 Grant Award Recipients. Voting will take place between July 24 and August 6 only. In order to maintain the integrity of the grant selection process, please do not attempt to influence the vote of any other WUP member.

FOUNDER SPOTLIGHT - DEBORAH CONWAY

Deborah Conway is one of the eight founders of Women United in Philanthropy; here she shares her thoughts on WUP.

A short time before WUP formally launched, Margery Daniel approached me with the initial concept for WUP. She believed that women were in a position to be philanthropic and that some might want to be part of a collective, in order to magnify their donations, as well as learn together about the needs of our community. I trusted Margery’s instincts and knowledge base; I was on board, as were the other founders.

When I see a room filled with women at each WUP event, many of whom I’ve yet to meet, I am thrilled. Not only is the mere *size of the crowd* heartening, but also, *the age range* of the women conveys that WUP will thrive for a long time. I have especially enjoyed getting to know the talented, kind and generous women with whom I’ve served on committees.

It is reassuring to know that so many like-minded women understand the needs of under-resourced women and children in our area and have learned about the human service programs available to them. I am confident that these informed women will make a difference and that their generosity will give hope to those in need, especially in this time of crisis.



Thank you, Deborah Conway, for your service to WUP and our community.

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PANEL DISCUSSION RECAP - HOW HEALTHCARE DISPARITIES IMPACT WOMEN & CHILDREN

On March 4, 2020, Women United in Philanthropy (WUP) hosted an educational panel discussion on How Healthcare Disparities Impact Women and Children. More than 120 people gathered at The Omni for this engaging topical panel with community healthcare providers: Dr. Cameron Webb, Torri Ayers, Dr. Paige Perriello, and Doreen Bonnet.

The panelists offered stimulating and informative conversation, with a highly skilled perspective across the direct healthcare community, home visiting, perinatal care, and doula services. Each panelist felt that women and children would benefit from additional partnerships that offer bridges to healthcare and that community and business groups could advocate and help provide more holistic, optimal health care for black women and children in our community. The national pregnancy death rate for black women is twice that of white women,

and alarmingly in Virginia the rate is three times as high. Panelists agreed that although quality healthcare is a fundamental need, it remains heavily influenced by one's zip code.

The group discussed the Social Determinants of Health, which include: Economic Stability; Education; Healthcare; Neighborhood Environment; and Social Contacts and Support.

The panelists called for holistic action and reaction in support of women and children, which include empowering and supporting patients when they advocate for themselves, and ensuring that medical staff listen carefully to understand their patients' concerns and take their concerns seriously.

All of the panelists agreed that active and reflective listening is the key to building a trusting relationship between patients and providers. This allows

the professionals to develop a global view of the family's circumstances and do a better job of treating them and connecting them to community resources. The ultimate goal is to help parents be effective advocates for themselves and their children.



(L to R) Torri Ayers, Child Health Partnership; Dr. Paige Perriello, Pediatric Associates of Charlottesville; Doreen Bonnet, Birth Sisters of Charlottesville; Dr. Cameron Webb, Assistant Professor of Medicine and Public Health Science, UVA