



SERVICE PHILANTHROPY CONNECTION

20 Years | WOMEN
UNITED®



+ ANNOUNCING
2026 WOMEN
UNITED GRANTEES!

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celebrating two decades of service, philanthropy, and connection

Dear Friends,

As we mark the 20th anniversary of Women United, we are proud to share this special publication—created to celebrate two decades of service, philanthropy, and meaningful connection across our region.

Over the past 20 years, Women United has brought together a dynamic community of women committed to strengthening the lives of women and children. Through collective giving, volunteer engagement, and ongoing learning, this network has invested nearly \$1 million in local programs—advancing opportunity, stability, and wellbeing for families throughout the Greater Charlottesville area.

This publication reflects both the impact we have achieved together and the clarity of purpose guiding our work ahead. At the heart of that work is a deep understanding of the evolving needs within our community. Today, many women continue to face significant barriers to their ability to live stable and thriving lives.

In response, **Women United is guided by a powerful and enduring truth: when we invest in women, we multiply impact.** The benefits extend beyond the individual—to children, families, and the broader community—creating a ripple effect that strengthens the fabric of our region.

Our approach is grounded in insight as well as intention. Women United is committed to community-driven philanthropy—ensuring that our investments are aligned with the needs of local women and children and positioned for meaningful, measurable impact.

At the center of it all is what has always set Women United apart: the power of connection paired with action. By bringing women together to learn, give, and serve, we are building not only a stronger community, but a more engaged and inspired network of leaders committed to its future.

As we celebrate this milestone, we do so with deep gratitude for all who have been part of this journey—with a shared sense of purpose for what lies ahead.

With appreciation,

Ravi Cooper

Ravi Cooper
President & CEO
United Way of Greater
Charlottesville

Amanda Litchfield

Amanda Litchfield
Chair
Women United





20 Years

of Responding to Community Needs Through Service, Philanthropy, and Connection

Across our region, more women are working hard yet still struggling to remain financially stable. Rising costs—particularly housing, childcare, food, and healthcare—continue to outpace wages, placing increasing pressure on women and caregivers. At the same time, our community partners are experiencing growing need related to safety, health equity, recovery, and social connection.

For twenty years, Women United has responded by listening closely to ensure our investments reflect the evolving needs of women and children across Greater Charlottesville.



Service provides more than support; it offers a clear, first-hand view of the realities facing women and families in our region.

service

Women United members engage directly with the community through hands-on service that supports basic needs, builds meaningful relationships, and deepens understanding of local challenges.

These volunteer experiences bring members—and often their daughters, sisters, and family members—shoulder to shoulder in service with local nonprofit partners.

Service provides more than support; it offers a clear, first-hand view of the realities facing women and families in our region. At the same time, it strengthens the fellowship and shared purpose that have been central to our mission for two decades—uplifting women and children through collective action.

The 2026 Family Day of Service brought Women United's commitment to hands-on engagement to life. Together, participants assembled more than 1,000 Family Support Kits—each filled with essential household and hygiene items. With participation from children and adults alike, the event fostered early connections to service while addressing urgent needs identified by community partners. Kits were distributed directly by Albemarle Foundation for Education, Child Health Partnership, Piedmont Family YMCA, and ReadyKids, extending the impact well beyond the event itself. This collective effort demonstrated how shared action, even in a few hours, can deliver tangible support and strengthen the fabric of our community.

philanthropy

Women United makes targeted grant investments that address both immediate needs and long-term opportunity—strengthening women and families today while laying the groundwork for a more stable future.

Throughout the years, diverse areas of focus for Women United grantmaking have formed a comprehensive response to the realities facing women across our community.



Health & Maternal Equity:

Supporting culturally responsive care and improved outcomes for mothers and infants



Housing & Stability:

Expanding access to safe housing and recovery support for women rebuilding their lives



Food Security & Basic Needs:

Providing nutritious food, essential supplies, and health education for families under financial strain



Safety & Empowerment:

Equipping women and youth with tools to prevent violence and build personal agency



Economic Mobility:

Building financial capability and long-term stability for youth and families



Support Across the Lifespan:

Addressing isolation and care needs for older women aging independently



Child Advocacy & Stability:

Ensuring children experiencing abuse or neglect have consistent support and a path to permanence



Environmental Education & Wellbeing:

Connecting youth and families to hands-on learning and community stewardship





education + connection

Women United creates spaces where women learn, reflect, and act together.

Through thoughtfully designed programs, members gain a deeper understanding of the complex issues affecting women and children in Greater Charlottesville. These learning opportunities are grounded in real data, stories, and conversations with the organizations doing the work every day.

From this shared learning, connection naturally grows. When members engage with grantee partners, listen to lived experiences, and witness both the challenges and strengths of local families, relationships take root—within the membership and across the community.

These relationships foster trust, empathy, and a shared sense of responsibility that extends far beyond any single event.

- **Educational gatherings** introduce members to local leaders, frontline practitioners, and community advocates
- **Service projects** offer firsthand insight into the daily realities facing families
- **Small-group conversations and storytelling** create space for reflection, dialogue, and deeper understanding
- **Shared experiences**—from volunteering to celebrating milestones—strengthen bonds among members themselves

This intentional blend of learning and connection transforms passive awareness into active engagement. It turns individual generosity into coordinated, strategic giving. And it ensures that Women United remains not just a giving circle, but a community of women who learn, give, and lead—side by side.



These learning opportunities are grounded in real data, stories, and conversations with the organizations doing the work every day.

20 Years | WOMEN UNITED

The Women United 20th Anniversary Celebration with Jeannette Walls

Friday, November 13, 5:30 to 9:00pm
Keswick Hall, 701 Club Drive, Keswick, VA

New York Times
bestselling author of
The Glass Castle



The 20th Anniversary Celebration will be a milestone evening honoring two decades of collective philanthropy, leadership, and impact in the Greater Charlottesville region. Please join Women United members and nonprofit partners who have benefited from Women United's grantmaking over the years. The evening will begin with a reception at 5:30pm, followed by a seated dinner and program designed to celebrate the organization's legacy while inspiring its future.

A highlight of the evening will be a keynote address from acclaimed author Jeannette Walls, whose powerful storytelling and lived experiences will serve as the foundation for a talk focused on resilience, overcoming adversity, and finding one's voice.

Her remarks will set the tone for a unique, interactive "table popcorn" program, where attendees will be invited to briefly share their own truths and reflections—creating a meaningful, collective experience rooted in authenticity and empowerment. The celebration will conclude with dancing and a book signing by Jeannette. Through storytelling, connection, and shared purpose, this anniversary event will both honor the past and energize Women United's continued commitment to helping women, children, and families thrive.



This investment will allow us to deepen the stability and support we provide to women in early recovery—meeting them not just at a moment of crisis, but walking alongside them as they rebuild their lives with dignity, connection, and hope.”

KRISTINA SMITH, EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR, GEORGIA'S FRIENDS

announcing OUR 2026 WOMEN UNITED GRANTEES

Each year, Women United invests in local nonprofits through a competitive, member-driven grantmaking process designed to identify and support organizations making a meaningful difference in the lives of women and children across Greater Charlottesville and surrounding counties.

The annual grants cycle opens each February, inviting eligible 501(c)(3) organizations to apply through a streamlined application process, with submissions due in early March and awards announced in May. Applications are reviewed by the Women United Grants Committee, which carefully evaluates each proposal based on demonstrated community need, organizational capacity, and potential for impact.

In 2026, Women United received 68 applications from organizations across the region, representing a wide range of service areas and totaling more than \$625,000 in funding requests—making the review process both rigorous and highly intentional. The result is a thoughtful portfolio of unrestricted grants, made possible through the collective giving of Women United members, that reflect both the urgency of local needs and the power of women coming together to drive meaningful change.

» Birth Sisters of Charlottesville

Mission

To dismantle root causes of systemic maternal health disparities for Black, Indigenous, People of Color while denying race as a risk factor.

Women United Grant Impact

Birth Sisters of Charlottesville provides doula support to BIPOC mothers. Core services include prenatal, labor & delivery, postpartum, extended postpartum and lactation support. **This grant will help Birth Sisters in growing a workforce of community-based doulas who share lived experiences with the clients they serve and provide culturally competent care.** In doing so Birth Sisters directly combats health disparities and improves maternal and infant health outcomes.

LEARN MORE: [BIRTHSISTERSCVILLE.ORG](https://birthsisterscville.org)

» Cville Village

Mission

To support the dignity and independence of older adults who choose to age at home, with practical help and connection from caring volunteers.

Women United Grant Impact

Cville Village helps older women remain safe, connected, and independent in their own homes. Founded just 2 years ago and run entirely by volunteers, has grown to 84 members—many of whom live alone and without nearby family. **For the first time, Cville Village is in the process of hiring staff to help coordinate services, strengthen volunteer capacity, and expand access.** This investment will ensure more women receive essential rides, practical support, and social connection that protect their health, dignity, and overall well-being.

LEARN MORE: [CVILLEVILLAGE.ORG](https://cvillevillage.org)



“Thank you for helping sustain the very core of our work: our doulas. They are not just the hands and feet of our organization—they are its heart. Living and serving in the communities we support, our doulas build trust that no clinical setting alone can replicate. Together, we are turning the tide on maternal health disparities by ensuring that families have access to continuous, culturally affirming care.”

DOREEN BONNET, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CO-FOUNDER, BIRTH SISTERS OF CHARLOTTESVILLE

» Fight Like A Grrrl Club

Mission

To empower people with the ability to protect their physical and emotional well-being through intersectional feminist self-defense education, with a focus on accessibility, inclusivity, and community resilience.

Women United Grant Impact

Fight Like a Grrrl Club offers empowerment sessions focused on boundary-setting, situational awareness, and responding to unsafe situations, with a special focus on reaching survivors and those in rural or underserved areas. **This grant from Women United will expand access to free, trauma-informed self-defense workshops for women, youth, and LGBTQ+ individuals.** In doing so, we will, together, strengthen personal agency, support violence-prevention education, and help build safer, more connected communities for women and young people.

[LEARN MORE: FIGHTLIKEAGRRRL.ORG](https://fightlikeagrrrl.org)

» Georgia's Friends, Inc.

Mission

Georgia's Friends empowers women in early recovery from substance use disorders by providing safe housing, structured support, and the tools necessary to rebuild stable, independent lives.

Women United Grant Impact

By strengthening recovery and economic stability, Georgia's Friends helps rebuild lives and reduces the intergenerational impact of addiction. **This grant from Women United will help women in the early stages of recovery (many of whom are mothers working toward reunification with their children) secure safe, stable housing at Georgia's House—a critical foundation for long-term sobriety, employment, and family stability.** Residents at Georgia's House often arrive with trauma histories, limited income, and strained family relationships—and stand to benefit tremendously from the structured accountability, recovery planning, and peer community offered there within.

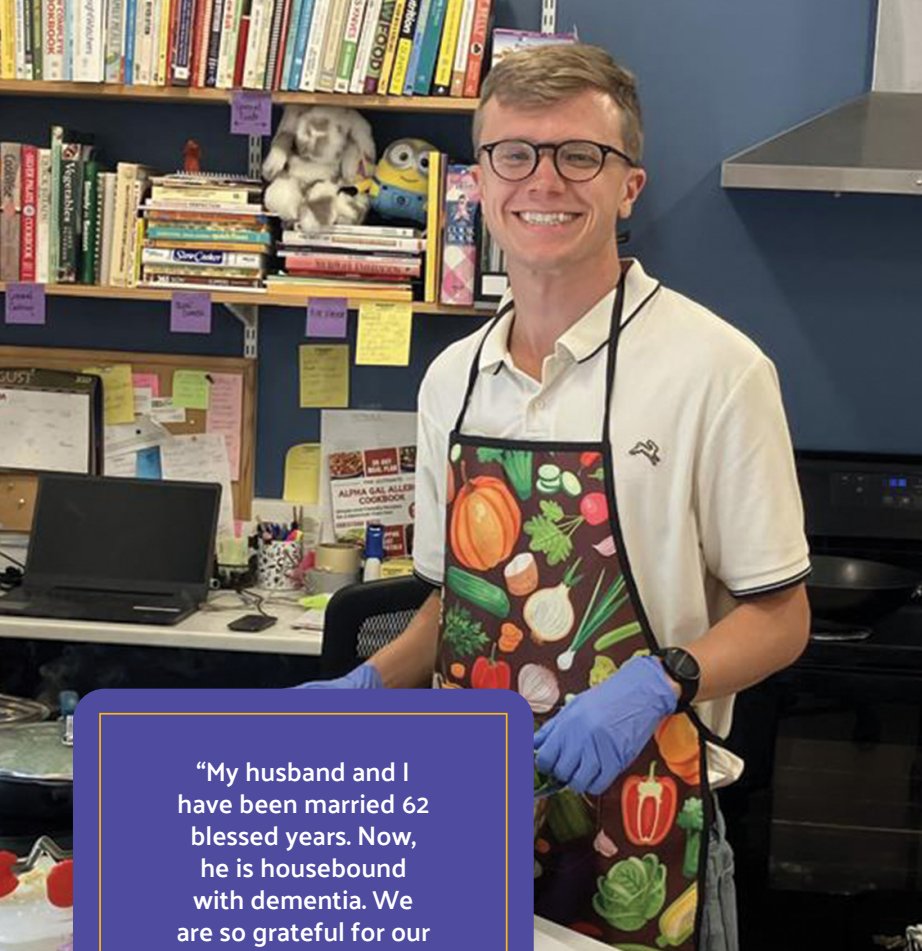
[LEARN MORE: GEORGIAFRIENDSINC.ORG](https://georgiasfriendsinc.org)



My daughter and I had an amazing experience at Fight Like A Grrrl. Their team took a difficult topic and turned it into one of empowerment! They were knowledgeable and extremely supportive—and I have to say, it was nice to share this with my daughter. I want her to have skills that better prepare her for our world.

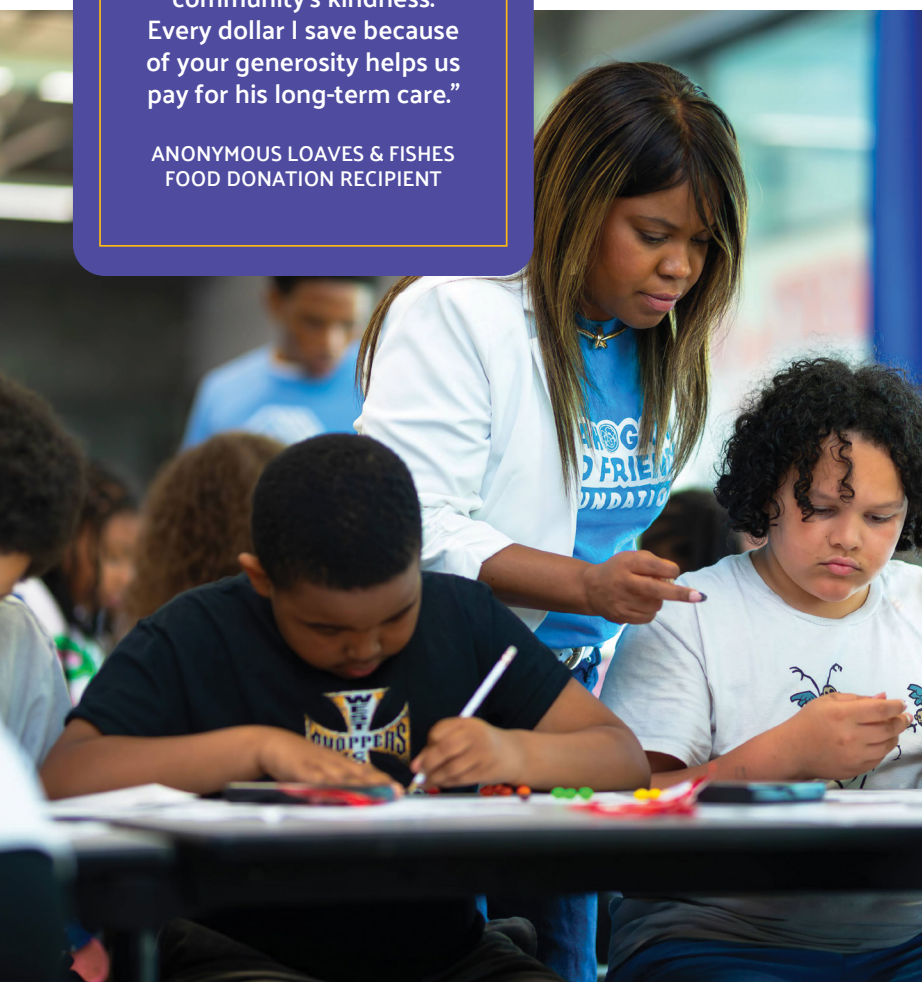
ANONYMOUS FIGHT LIKE A
GRRRL CLUB WORKSHOP
PARTICIPANT





“My husband and I have been married 62 blessed years. Now, he is housebound with dementia. We are so grateful for our community’s kindness. Every dollar I save because of your generosity helps us pay for his long-term care.”

ANONYMOUS LOAVES & FISHES
FOOD DONATION RECIPIENT



» Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry, Inc.

Mission

Loaves & Fishes provides nourishing food with respect and dignity to all who seek assistance, while offering robust opportunities for community engagement through volunteerism, partnerships, and nutrition education.

Women United Grant Impact

Loaves & Fishes helps women and families access healthy, culturally responsive groceries along with nutrition education that builds long-term food confidence. With many households led by women and facing rising costs, **this funding will strengthen access to fresh produce, milk, eggs, and essential items like diapers, formula, and period products—thereby supporting women’s health, reducing food insecurity, and equipping families with the skills and resources to nourish themselves with dignity.**

LEARN MORE: CVILLEFOODPANTRY.ORG

» Mahogany & Friends Foundation

Mission

Mahogany & Friends Foundation empowers children, youth, and families, especially those historically excluded from wealth-building, with the tools, creativity, and confidence to build financially secure futures.

Women United Grant Impact

Mahogany & Friends’ grant will help middle school students build real savings and lifelong financial habits through the High Five Savings Program. By combining financial education, applied earning experiences, and matched savings, students—many from women-led households—will gain their first opportunity to plan for financial stability. The program’s Family Banking Day further equips caregivers to open youth accounts and reinforce saving at home, strengthening economic security for both children and the women guiding them.

LEARN MORE: MAHOGANYANDFRIENDS.COM/FOUNDATION



Through your generosity, Piedmont CASA recruits, trains, and supports volunteers who give children the gift of advocacy. This is all the more important as we face a growing need in our community. By the end of this year, Piedmont CASA will have served 40% more children than it did just two years ago.”

KATE DUVALL, PRESIDENT & CEO, PIEDMONT CASA

» PACEM

Mission

PACEM provides emergency cold weather shelter and services, in partnership with faith organizations and the community.

Women United Grant Impact

With federal housing assistance shrinking, PACEM ensures women have the safety, support, and connections needed not only to secure housing but to sustain it and thrive. **This grant will help more women move from homelessness to stability by strengthening recovery-focused services across its housing programs.** Funding will enhance behavioral health and financial coaching, expand landlord engagement, and support the new Transitional House for Women, where participants build independent living skills and prepare for permanent housing.

[LEARN MORE: PACEMSHELTER.ORG](https://pacemshelter.org)

» Piedmont CASA

Mission

Piedmont CASA provides best-interest advocacy for children in the courts of the 16th Judicial District of Virginia – striving to make sure that every child experiencing possible abuse and/or neglect is safe, has a permanent home, and has the opportunity to thrive.

Women United Grant Impact

Through the work of Piedmont CASA, local girls are more likely to find safe, permanent homes and far less likely to re-enter foster care—strengthening their long-term well-being and future stability. **This grant will help restore safety, stability, and hope for girls in foster care by ensuring they receive dedicated CASA Advocates and Bridges to Success Coaches.** Advocates amplify each child’s voice in court, secure essential medical and educational supports, and provide the consistent, trauma-informed guidance that leads to better outcomes.

[LEARN MORE: PCASA.ORG](https://pcasa.org)



“Raising three kids on a tight budget is challenging. The baby clothes, diapers, and stroller we received from Stepping Stone have helped us tremendously. The process was simple, and their team treated us with so much kindness and respect. They have been a lifesaver for my family.”

AISHA, MOTHER OF THREE AND
STEPPING STONE SUPPORT
RECIPIENT



» Rivanna Conservation Alliance

Mission

Working with the community to conserve the Rivanna River and its watershed through water quality monitoring, restoration, education, and stewardship.

Women United Grant Impact

Rivanna Conservation Alliance strengthens environmental stewardship, confidence, and well-being for women and children by engaging girls, caregivers, and community members in meaningful outdoor learning. **This grant will expand hands-on environmental education and community science opportunities for women and youth across the Rivanna watershed.** Funding will help sustain middle-school watershed programs, summer experiences for underserved youth, and internships that introduce young women to environmental careers. It also supports water-quality monitoring that provides families with essential public-health information.

LEARN MORE: RIVANNARIVER.ORG

» Stepping Stone Charlottesville

Mission

Stepping Stone supports babies and toddlers from under-resourced families by providing diapers, clothing, and other essential items for their health and well-being.

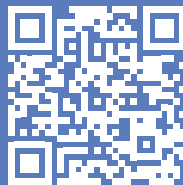
Women United Grant Impact

Stepping Stone reaches families facing financial hardship, single mothers, foster caregivers, and immigrant households, providing dignity, stability, and critical support during a child's earliest years. **This grant will help ensure babies and toddlers from under-resourced families receive the essential items they need for healthy development.** Funding will allow the organization to purchase high-demand necessities—car seats, strollers, pack-n-plays, diapers, wipes, and hygiene products for children and mothers—while sustaining core operations.

LEARN MORE: STEPPINGSTONECVILLE.ORG



Become a
member today!



About Women United Membership

Women United relies on community members like you to continue to advance solutions to the issues facing women and children in our community. Membership contributions are 100% tax-deductible and support member-driven grantmaking and programming.

Benefits of membership include:

- Hands-on, member-driven **community service projects**
- Collective **grantmaking** to local nonprofits impacting women and children
- **Educational forums** on philanthropy and topics highlighting timely community issues.
- **Fellowship** through service, new friendships, and fun social gatherings.



Stay connected by following @WomenUnitedCville on social media and signing up to subscribe to our newsletter using the QR code.

MEMBER LEVELS

Sustainers Circle (\$5,000+)

Provide catalytic support to accelerate our ability to invest in women and children across Greater Charlottesville. Members deepen the impact of our grantmaking, strengthen our service initiatives, and shape the strategic direction of our work.

Partner (\$1,000-\$4,999)

Provide transformative grants and expand Women United programs to ensure our philanthropy creates lasting change.

Supporter (\$500-\$999)

Strengthen Women United annual grantmaking, providing women and families vital resources where they are needed most.

Friend (\$250-\$499)

Advance Women United capacity-building grants and community initiatives, helping nonprofits grow and expand opportunities for women and children.

Associate (\$150-\$249)

Bolster Women United community forums, educational events, and grantmaking, delivering resources that drive solutions for women and children.

Student (\$50-\$149)

Contribute to Women United grantmaking and volunteer-led service projects, providing essential support and supplies.

Women United Committees

Women United members are invited to participate in leadership opportunities through committee service, helping drive the future impact of our group.

20th Anniversary Host Committee

Uniting to Bring Our Milestone Celebration to Life

The 20th Anniversary Host Committee will help bring our milestone celebration to life. Members will play an important role in building enthusiasm, expanding engagement, and encouraging attendance for the November 13 event at Keswick Hall. The committee reflects the collaborative spirit of Women United—honoring two decades of impact while energizing future efforts.

Through their leadership and outreach, Host Committee members help ensure the celebration is both inspiring and representative of the vibrant community Women United has built.

Grants Committee

Dedicated to Leading Grantmaking and Funding

The Grants Committee plays a central role in shaping Women United's impact through its collective approach to philanthropy. Over the past two decades, this work has resulted in more than \$875,000 in unrestricted funding awarded to 36 local nonprofits supporting women and children. Each spring, the committee leads a thoughtful and comprehensive grantmaking process, including applicant outreach, review, and funding decisions. Grantees are then highlighted throughout the year at Women United events and educational opportunities. In 2026, the committee awarded \$60,000 to six outstanding organizations.

With nearly 70 applications totaling \$2 million in requests this year, the committee remains committed to growing Women United's collective impact.

Member Engagement Committee

Creating Meaningful Opportunities and Connections for our Community

The Women United Membership Engagement Committee plays a vital role in shaping the next chapter of our collective story. We welcome and engage new members from across Charlottesville and our neighboring rural counties, create meaningful opportunities for connection, service, and leadership, and celebrate the contributions of our members while amplifying the impact of our work.

Whether your passion lies in community-building, strategic outreach, or simply bringing people together around a shared mission, your voice and energy would be a tremendous asset. Together, we will expand our reach, deepen relationships, and ensure Women United continues to be a powerful force for good in our region.

Events Committee

Curating Experiences and Programs with Impact

The Women United Events Committee brings our mission to life by planning the social gatherings, hands-on service projects, and educational programs that connect, inspire, and mobilize our members. From organizing meaningful volunteer opportunities to curating learning experiences that deepen our understanding of the issues facing women and children in our region, this committee ensures that every event strengthens both our community and our collective impact. If you enjoy creating experiences that spark connection, elevate learning, and bring people together with purpose, your creativity and leadership would be invaluable.

Together, we'll design opportunities that energize our members, broaden our reach, and reinforce Women United's role as a catalyst for equity and opportunity across Greater Charlottesville.

If you're interested in learning more about how to support the work of Women United through our committees, please reach out to womenunited@womenunitedcville.org



Past Women United Grantees

As Women United has grown, so has our impact—enabling support for more local nonprofits focused on improving the lives of women and children throughout our community.

2006: Child Health Partnership	Ridge, ReadyKids	Center	Initiative
2007: International Rescue Committee, ReadyKids	2015: Charlottesville Works Initiative, City of Promise, Foothills Child Advocacy Center	2020: Albemarle Housing Improvement Program, Piedmont CASA	2024: Charlottesville Free Clinic, Foothills Child Advocacy Center
2008: Smart Beginnings	2016: Albemarle Housing Improvement Program, Piedmont Housing Alliance	2021: All Blessings Flow, Charlottesville Public Housing Association of Residents, Yellow Door Foundation	2025: Albemarle Housing Improvement Program, Emergency Food Network, Feeding Greene, HopeCam, Hospice of the Piedmont, Literacy Volunteers of Charlottesville-Albemarle, Piedmont Family YMCA, ReadyKids, Sexual Assault Resource Agency, The Paramount Theater of Charlottesville
2009: Community Children's Dental Center	2017: African American Teaching Fellows, Georgia's House, The Women's Initiative	2022: City of Promise, Shelter for Help in Emergency	
2010: The Women's Initiative	2018: Building Goodness Foundation, International Neighbors	2023: 100 Black Men of Central Virginia, Child Health Partnership, Girls on the Run Central Virginia & Blue Ridge, Reclaimed Hope	
2011: International Rescue Committee, Piedmont CASA	2019: PACEM, Piedmont Family YMCA Early Learning		
2012: Boys and Girls Club of Central Virginia			
2013: Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, Child Health Partnership			
2014: Big Brothers, Big Sisters of the Central Blue			

20TH ANNIVERSARY SUSTAINERS CIRCLE

The 20th Anniversary Sustainers Circle is a dedicated group of donors committed to securing the long-term sustainability and impact of Women United in Philanthropy. By making a \$5,000 gift beyond annual membership contributions, Sustainers provide financial stability, ensuring consistent grant funding and operational support for years to come.

Elaine Attridge
Deborah Conway
Ravi Cooper

Ann Myers
Kathy Rhyne
Bitsy Waters

2025 - 2026 Women United Members

We are deeply grateful to the members whose collective giving has powered Women United this past year.

Partner (\$1,000+)

Liza Borches
Margery Daniel
Bebe Heiner
Serena Lowe
Ann Myers
Kathy Rhyne
Kendra L. Stribling
Elsie Thompson

Valeria McFarren
Beth McNew
Kristina Parker
Bitsy Waters
Kerry Wright

Friend (\$250+)

Olivia Branch
Deborah Conway
Molly Crawford
Carolyn Cullen
Caroline Emerson
Carolyn Fitzpatrick
Becky Gildersleeve
Grace Giras
Anne Hunter
Tele Jenifer
Laurie Kelly
Harrie A. Kuhr
Peppy G. Linden
Carol Lindsay
Amanda Litchfield
Amy Nash

Karen Poos
Sue Rainey
Wendy Seay
Deirdre Smith
Diane Snustad
Grace Stillwell
Kristin Cummings Streed
Mac Weems

Associate (\$150+)

Dr. Beverly C. Adams
Kimberley Armstrong
Kirsten Ashbaugh
Elaine May Attridge
Louisa Barrett
Bevin Boisvert
Gwendolyn Cassady
Jill Colby
Tracy Delgado
Anita Dunbar
Peggy Echols
Sasha Farmer Tripp
Pam Fitzgerald

Joan Forrest
Deborah Goodman
Nora Hand
Emily Hartka
Maribeth Haynes
Tiffany Miller Jenkins
Carol Johnston
Libby Jones
Rebecca Lant
Linda Lester
Meredith Locascio
Kathy Markwood
Elaine Oakey
Bonita Patton
Leontyne Peck
Jacqueline Pickering
Judy Pointer
Dominique Poirier
Cay Lee Ratliff

Samantha Savage
Judith Selzer
Emily Sidani
Maggie Strong
Sarah Struckmann
Dorothy G. Tompkins
Cathy Train
Martha C. Weiss
Roxanne White
Susanna Williams

All member listings are current as of April 2026. We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of these listings and encourage you to contact us if you notice any errors or omissions.

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