

NEWS RELEASE



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**United Way
of Henderson County**

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Women United Continues to Make Impact in Challenging Year

Grants Awarded to Four Local Initiatives; Girls EMpowered Program Benefits 39 Local Youth

HENDERSONVILLE, NC, June 29, 2021 – Women United, United Way of Henderson County’s affinity group for female leadership donors, presented four awards to local initiatives that help women and children succeed and become more self-sufficient. Last week, 4 checks in the amount of \$1,000 each were presented to Boys & Girls Club of Henderson County, Safelight, Smart Start Partnership for Children and YMCA of Hendersonville/Henderson County Public Schools.

“Despite a challenging year, the members of Women United remained passionate about giving back and making a lasting impact in the local community,” said Pam Combs, 2020-21 Women United Chair. “The members of Women United continued to support United Way initiatives like Day of Action and Days of Caring, in addition to our signature program Girls EMpowered (GEM) which we transitioned to a virtual offering this spring,” she added.

GEM is an after-school mentoring program for fifth grade girls at Upward and Hillandale Elementary Schools, and for girls in grades 6-8 at Hendersonville Middle School. A total of 29 elementary school girls and 10 middle school girls completed the spring virtual session which included programs centered on career goals, educational aspirations, yoga and meditation techniques and dream building with most speakers delivering their talks virtually using platforms like Google Meet and Zoom.

“It has been exciting to see the impact that our women are creating,” said Denise Cumbee Long, Executive Director of United Way of Henderson County. “They stepped up during a difficult year to make sure that young girls still had the opportunity to learn and grow through Girls Empowered. Their passion for service is truly making a difference throughout our community!”

Women United is a United Way initiative that is designed to connect giving and volunteerism. Women United members contribute \$1,000 or more annually to United Way of Henderson County or take advantage of a three year Step Up plan. A percentage of member contributions is used for initiatives that empower children and women.

About United Way of Henderson County

United Way is advancing the common good by creating opportunities for a better life in Henderson County. If you would like more information or would like to make a donation, contact United Way of Henderson County at PO Box 487, Hendersonville, NC 28793, 828-692-1636, or visit online at liveunitedhc.org. You can also find UWHC on Facebook and Instagram.

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