

Power of the Purse

March 19, 2020

POWER OF THE PURSE

United Way of the Lowcountry's Women United will host the annual Power of the Purse event on March 19, 2020 at Saltus River Grill. The event features heavy hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, and a silent auction. During this annual event, Women United celebrates local women and their contributions to our community by presenting the Woman of the Year award.

WHY SUPPORT THE POWER OF THE PURSE?

Proceeds from the event support education initiatives benefitting children and families throughout Beaufort and Jasper Counties through Women United's Breaking Barriers to Education Fund, Operation Backpack, Mimi's Closet, and the Women United Scholarship Fund.

Breaking Barriers to Education Fund

The Breaking Barriers fund seeks to help fulfill needs that would otherwise prevent a student from attending school or from reaching their full potential. The fund is administered by the United Way of the Lowcountry HELPLINE, which works with school officials to directly remove financial barriers that stand in the way of a child's education.

Over the years, the Breaking Barriers to Education Fund has been used to overcome a variety of barriers, giving children an opportunity to succeed in school. Below are just a few of the many ways this fund has impacted children in our community.

- *Having an operating hot water heater is something many of us take for granted.* It wasn't long ago that a Grandmother who is the guardian for her 5 grandchildren had a broken hot water heater she couldn't afford to repair. As a result of not having hot water in the home, she was in jeopardy of losing her grandchildren, which would have resulted in them being split up and placed in foster care. Through this fund, a new water heater was installed, which kept this family together and allowed the children to remain at their schools.
- *Imagine being a parent or guardian and not being able to get your children to and from school safely.* That was the case for a single Mother whose car tires were so badly worn that school officials would not allow her to pick up her children from school due to safety concerns. Through this fund, new tires were purchased for the car so the family could have safe and reliable transportation to and from school each day.

Operation Backpack

Operation Backpack provides backpacks full of school supplies and uniform shirts to children in our community who are not being served by another agency. Women United works with school social workers to identify students in need to help fill in the gaps and ensure students in our community have the tools they need to succeed on their first day of school. In August 2019, Women United packed and distributed 1,250+ backpacks to local students.

Mimi's Closet

As an extension of Operation Backpack, Women United is working with school officials to establish supply closets at local schools with hygiene items, snacks, school supplies, uniforms, and other essential items to help break down any barriers that would prevent students from succeeding.

Women United Scholarship Fund

The Women United Scholarship Fund is being established to support local, non-traditional female students pursuing a higher education degree at USCB or TCL. The scholarship will be presented during the Power of the Purse event.

ABOUT WOMEN UNITED

Women United, previously named Women's Leadership Council (WLC), was founded locally in 2012. Women United members work together to engage, educate and empower others to become leaders and actively participate in the betterment of our community. Women United's mission is to mobilize the caring power of women together to advance the common good by focusing on education in the forgotten pockets of Beaufort and Jasper Counties. Anyone can become a member by donating any amount to United Way of the Lowcountry and by volunteering or advocating. Visit www.uwlowcountry.org or contact Jaime Dailey-Vergara at 843.982.3040 or jdaileyvergara@uwlowcountry.org for more information.

ABOUT UNITED WAY OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

United Way of the Lowcountry's mission is to mobilize resources to solve human problems.

