



**UNITED WAY**  
Lowcountry

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# BREAKING BARRIERS TO EDUCATION

## Helping Students Overcome Obstacles to Learning

**Every student deserves a chance to succeed—but sometimes, barriers outside the classroom stand in the way.**

Women United's **Breaking Barriers to Education Fund** exists to provide immediate, practical support for students facing non-academic challenges that might prevent them from attending school or reaching their full potential.

Whether it's lack of transportation, uniforms, or hygiene needs, this fund helps fill critical gaps quickly—so learning can continue uninterrupted.

### How the Fund Works

- **Administered by the United Way of the Lowcountry HELPLINE**, a free and confidential 24/7 information and referral service that connects individuals and families to local resources. The HELPLINE also plays a direct role in coordinating support for referred students when no existing programs meet their needs.
- Activated through **referrals from school social workers or counselors**
- Designed to remove **financial and resource-based barriers** not addressed by existing community services

### How to Access Support

School social workers should contact **Christie Turner** or **Angela Boswell** on our **Community Impact Team** to begin the process:

1. **Initial Consultation** – UWLC serves as a **sounding board**, helping determine what services are needed and whether outside agencies need to be involved.
2. **Resource Coordination** – If no appropriate community resources exist, UWLC will **mobilize partners and direct funds** to address the unmet need.
3. **Rapid Response** – The goal is to provide timely solutions that **keep students in school and engaged** in their learning environment.

### Funded by Women United

The Breaking Barriers to Education Fund is made possible through the generous support of **Women United**, an affinity group of United Way of the Lowcountry. Women United members are community leaders and advocates committed to creating lasting change through **education, opportunity, and equity**. Their fundraising efforts make it possible to meet urgent student needs—quietly, compassionately, and effectively.