Who We Are:
Women United (WU) members are community leaders who come together as a unique driving force and inspires them to ignite their passion for leading change in the community. The group promotes community involvement and philanthropic giving among women in our community with the purpose of furthering United Way’s community-based agenda. Women United has focused its fundraising and engagement efforts around United Way’s ReadingPals program.

ReadingPals is a statewide early literacy initiative that provides volunteer mentors for students from Voluntary Pre-kindergarten (VPK) to 3rd grade who may need extra help, utilizing one-on-one or small group settings. Locally, United Way partners with Marion County Public Schools to provide ReadingPals in kindergarten classrooms. Volunteers donate one hour a week during the year in 19 elementary schools across Marion County.

As of July 2021, Women United at United Way of Marion County will undergo a temporary hiatus through January 2022. This planning phase will allow us to restructure and reinvigorate our philanthropic vision for the group. Additionally, membership dues will no longer be accepted. In January of 2022, we will kick-off a new year with magnificent new opportunities to help foster goodwill in Marion County, unique new fundraisers, mixers, and so much more.

OUR MISSION:
The mission of United Way’s Women United is to inspire, celebrate, educate, and engage women in philanthropy and community service to positively impact lives by:
- Bringing women philanthropists together to share their interests and involvements
- Apprising women of trends regarding women and philanthropy
- Keeping women informed about the needs of our community
- Educating women about United Way’s Community Impact work

MEMBER BENEFITS
LEADERSHIP AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES:
- Be a Community Impact Leader! Share your ideas and build relationships with group members, United Way staff, and community leaders in a variety of fun and meaningful settings
- Connect with community-minded women while expanding personal and professional opportunities.

BE RECOGNIZED AS A LEADERSHIP DONOR
- Receive philanthropic recognition as a United Way Leadership Donor.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND VOLUNTEER PROJECTS:
- Be a Volunteer Hero! Participate in at least two affinity group exclusive volunteer opportunities annually
- Serve as an Ambassador for United Way through advocating, speaking, and volunteering.

ENGAGING COMMUNITY EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS:
- Host events that support early literacy: Every year, affinity group members host a variety of community events that create meaningful engagement and true change.
- Network with Community Leaders receives special invitations and early ticket access to events. You’ll also receive a Caring Club Card that gets you special discounts from restaurants and businesses.

For more information contact Vianca L. Torres, Staff Liason to Women United, via vtorres@uwmc.org.
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**UNITED WAY OF MARION COUNTY**
1401 NE 2ND ST.
OCALA, FL 34470
P: 352-732-9696
WWW.UWMC.ORG

The United Way Step-Up Program gives you a pathway to the Leadership Society and immediate access to Leadership Society benefits. In this program, you will reach $1,000 by increasing your gift incrementally over a three-year period.

**Gift Levels**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>$750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
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</tbody>
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**HERE’S HOW IT WORKS:**

- Select your new recognition level.
- Pledge now for your next steps.
- You’ll be recognized at the Leadership giving level immediately, which includes invitations to all social events and programs.

**Volunteer**

Visit volunteermanician.org to see an ongoing and weekly list of projects in our area. Sort by causes near and dear to your heart or sign-up as a team, and give back to local agencies. Participate as an individual or as a group.

**Become a Pal**

- **Become a Pal:** Instill the love of reading and become a volunteer mentor to kindergarten students in our lowest-performing elementary schools in Marion County.

**Join an affinity group**

Based on your individual donation amount, you can participate or join a leadership position on an affinity group. Become an Emerging Leader and lead the charge with Women United.

**Join a Vision Council**

Experts in the fields of health, education, and financial stability, these volunteers assess our community’s greatest needs. They then oversee the Funded Partner grant process, where local nonprofits work together to make an impact.

**Day of Caring**

Join us for this annual event to make a significant difference at local not-for-profit locations. Roll-up your sleeves and help with beautification and more!

**WHEN:** February 26, 2022

More details to come.

To become a part of one or more of these opportunities contact Vianca L. Torres via vtorres@uwmc.org.

As a United Way Leadership Donor (a household gift of $1,000 or more), or the spouse of a donor, you automatically qualify and are a Woman United member. If you are a past dues member and wish to continue participating in Women United but cannot commit to the Leadership Level of giving there are still many ways for you to support our efforts including the Step-Up Program.

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**Step Up to Leadership Program**

**February 2022**

**WE KICK-OFF AN ALL NEW**
**Women United**

Stay tuned for more details!

**Become a Pal**

Instill the love of reading and become a volunteer mentor to kindergarten students in our lowest-performing elementary schools in Marion County.

**Fund a “Book in a Bag” for the year:** $1,200.00

**Sponsor a Student for the year:** $125.00

Contact Jan Hathaway, ReadingPals Program Director at jhathaway@uwmc.org.

**Share your skills on a committee**

United Way of Marion County has many ways to utilize your talents and expertise. Share your knowledge and skills by joining a committee, such as fundraising, marketing, and events.

**January 2022**

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**Women United**

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