

WOMEN AS A POWERFUL PHILANTHROPIC FORCE

The mission of the United Way of the Lowcountry's Women's Leadership Council 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.

They are dedicated to inspiring, educating, encouraging and recognizing women as agents of change in our community through philanthropy, leadership and service.

As part of a network of over 120 other Women's Leadership Councils nationwide, the UWLC chapter is focused on ensuring the success of the Early Grade Reading program. Across the country WLCs are recruiting and training women in the community to work together as mentors, tutors and readers in elementary schools.

United Way of the Lowcountry
PO Box 202
2266 Boundary Street, Beaufort, SC 29902
10 Buckingham Plantation Drive, Suite D, Bluffton, SC 29910
1509 Grays Highway, Ridgeland, SC 29936,
www.uwlowcountry.org

Women's Leadership Council

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LIVE UNITED

**MOBILIZING THE POWER
OF WOMEN TO ADVANCE
THE COMMON GOOD**

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

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ABOUT THE UNITED WAY WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The United Way Women's Leadership Council is a global network of more than 55,000 women united to advance the common good in our communities and create a better life for all. Founded over a decade ago, based on an ambitious local model seeded in Greensboro, North Carolina, the concept recognized women as an emerging and powerful philanthropic force.

Created and led by women, the United Way Women's Leadership Council has more members giving more money than any other similar women's group, raising in excess of \$1 billion in 12 years.

WHAT SETS US APART

While the dollars raised by United Way Women's Leadership Council is impressive, what really sets us apart is that members engage hands-on in driving change in their community. Beyond an annual financial contribution, members can invest their time, professional expertise, and talent to advance causes they care passionately about, while at the same time having an opportunity to connect with other powerful, committed women in the community.

Members' ages, ethnic backgrounds, geographies, professions and interests are diverse, yet the common denominator is a shared belief in the work of the United Way Women's Leadership councils.

WHAT WE DO

Grounded in the idea that addressing the most critical local needs lifts the community as a whole and creates a better life for us all, members stand up, unite and take action on issues that hit closest to home by giving, advocating and volunteering.

With a focus on education, income and health, a sampling of local actions includes:

- Power of the Purse - our annual spring fundraising event is an evening of fun and fellowship honoring local women and raising money for a special fund used to augment the UWLC's Helpline. The fund addresses needs of schoolchildren that are not addressed by current partner agencies.
- Operation Backpack - working with local schools, we will identify children who need help obtaining school supplies and uniforms. The goal of this program is to identify the gaps in the current programs aimed at serving schoolchildren.
- Networking Events - we have formal, regularly scheduled networking events aimed at bringing women together to discuss how to best collaborate and embody change as well as learn about new service opportunities.

LEARN MORE

Interested in learning more about the United Way of the Lowcountry's Women's Leadership Council and how you can engage with this dynamic group of women creating real, lasting change in communities? Visit www.uwlowcountry.org

WOMEN IN THE COMMUNITY

At our first annual Power of the Purse event, we honored Dr. Renarta Tompkins, a professor of Early Childhood and Elementary Literacy at USCB, for her work with the Early Grade Reading Program.

Her leadership in training other volunteers and writing the program's manual are two of many reasons why she was chosen as the Woman of the Year by the United Way's Women's Leadership Council.

"I'm honored to work alongside an army of volunteers such as these," she said upon receiving the award.

The award was established this year to honor a local woman "who best exemplifies the service and leadership to be an agent of change in the lowcountry."

While Dr. Tompkins is a worthy and dedicated honoree, she is not alone among those advancing the common good.

As anthropologist and author Margaret Mead said, "never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, concerned citizens can change the world - indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

We hope that you will consider joining our "small group" as we seek to expand into chapters in Beaufort, Hilton Head, Bluffton and Jasper.

For more information on the United Way of the Lowcountry's Women's Leadership Council, please contact Lesley Holladay at 843-982-3040 or lholladay@uwlowcountry.org.

THE CHALLENGE

United Way's Call for Volunteer Tutors and Mentors

Fewer Americans are likely to earn a diploma than their parents, a distinction not shared by any other industrialized country. We know that when students drop out of school, communities suffer. The scope of the dropout problem is staggering. About one quarter of all students - one million students a year, 3,000 a day - fail to graduate on time. In some large urban districts, the percentage is closer to half of students, with the problem most acute for African American and Hispanic youth.

That is why United Way of the Lowcountry is committed to recruiting 600 volunteer readers, tutors and mentors.