# WOMEN UNITED FY20 ANNUAL REPORT





338 MEMBERS in FY20

\$235,000+ raised for our mission

# **Mission**

Women United unites funds and resources to ensure the well-being of women in need.

# Vision

Women in need have the opportunity to achieve well-being and live prosperous, productive lives, creating healthier communities in Eastern Iowa.

# **Partners**

Women United provides funds to:

- Area Substance Abuse Council (ASAC)– Heart of Iowa
- Community Health Free Clinic (CHFC)
- Eastern Iowa Health Center (EIHC)

# Membership

In FY20, Women United had 338 members. For FY21, the Women United steering committee is chaired by Wendy Nielsen of Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust.

# Last Year's Results

Women United distributed \$235,185 to its three partners. Those partners provided services to local women including:

- 1,705 women received health navigation and care coordination
- 2,529 women received co-pay assistance
- · 265 dental services for women

# **Turning Houses into Homes**

Women United focuses on all aspects of well being for women in our community. For some, this means having access to healthcare and prescriptions. For others, this means having a place to raise a family.

The Eastern Iowa Health Center—one of Women United's funded agencies—has a robust social work team that strives to connect patients to resources they need. Sarah, a homeless outreach social worker on the team, was connected with a female patient named Lisa.

Lisa, who was 38 years old, was coming out of homelessness and had been living in a hotel with her six children for an extended period of time. Lisa had worked tirelessly to save money to get a place of her own. Sarah learned that Lisa and her family were set to move to their new home on December 20th. However, due to water damage at a prior residence, Lisa and her children did not have any belongings or furnishings to take with them.

After learning more about Lisa's case, Sarah was able to refer Lisa and her family to Central Furniture Rescue (CFR). This organization, which is referral-only and based only on donations, helps furnish homes for community members in need. They were able to give Lisa and her family the best holiday gift: items of their own. CFR delivered:

- Enough mattresses, box springs, frames, and bedding for Lisa and each of her six children
- · Two dressers for the children's' clothing
- Furniture for her living room and kitchen
- · Kitchen appliances, such as a toaster and crockpot
- · Bath towels and a shower curtain
- · Board games and stuffed animals
- A box of food, donated by Quaker Oats

When donations are made to UWECI, they're helping create lasting change in the lives of people in our community—people like Lisa and her children. And when the people in our community thrive, our community thrives.

# **WOMEN UNITED EVENTS**

# Women United Power of the Purse

Women United hosted Power of the Purse on Thursday, August 1, 2019 at the The Hall-Perrine Cancer Center at Mercy Medical Center. This event forwards Women United's mission by raising awareness and funds for local un- and under-insured women in our community who need access to healthcare services.

This year's Power of the Purse was a rousing success with:

- 150+ attendees bidding on 60+ purses
- · A weekend stay at a cabin in Galena
- · A game of heads or tails for a wine and whiskey wagon
- · A raffle for a beautiful red Kate Spade purse and wallet
- And a total of more than \$11,500 raised

When women support each other, incredible things happen!

# **Women United Diaper Drive**

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Eastern lowa Diaper Bank (EIDB) expanded to meet the needs of community members who struggled with obtaining diapers. Women United hosted a drive during the spring to supply EIDB with much-needed items, such as diapers and baby wipes. Over 85,000 diapers were donated to EIDB as part of the drive, which helped thousands of families in Eastern lowa provide their children with clean and dry diapers.

# **Women United Luncheon**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Women United Luncheon scheduled for May 20, 2020 was cancelled. We look forward to seeing everyone at the 2021 luncheon!

# **Virtual Agency Tours**

In April, Women United hosted a series of virtual lunch and learns. Each session included a tour of one of Women United's supported agencies, an explanation of the agency's mission and work, and included an opportunity to ask questions. Thank you to our 3 agencies who took time out of their day to participate in these lunch and learns!

# Learn more at uweci.org/women





of East Central Iowa





