



WOMEN
UNITED



GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.



UNITEDWAYSEM.ORG

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United Way
for Southeastern Michigan

WOMEN UNITED



MEMBERSHIP GUIDE



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A letter from

BETH ARDISANA

Welcome to Women United!

We are a group of committed and caring women who use our time, talent and financial resources to support children from the day they're born through United Way for Southeastern Michigan's vital work in our community.

In our region, 165,000 households with children struggle to meet their basic needs. If families can't meet their basic needs, they can't provide the support their children need to grow and learn.

Studies show that children who receive a quality early childhood education are more likely to enter school ready to learn, read at grade level, graduate from high school and thrive as adults. But in order to nurture our community's children, it takes well-trained caregivers.

By supporting United Way's efforts to connect more caregivers with Child Development Associate (CDA) training, we can influence the trajectory of early childhood programs in our region and ensure families have access to quality child care.

When we support a program that teaches the teacher, we make an impact on children now and in the future. We can improve their learning experiences and ensure they receive the best possible opportunity to thrive.

This is an investment in the future of our entire region.

Our goal is to help caregivers get the training they need and remove road blocks like the cost of training. When more child care workers are certified, families have more options for low-cost, high-quality child care.

The children in our community need your help. A solid educational foundation is essential to their future success. When you join Women United, you make a meaningful impact in the lives of the caregivers we support and the children they reach.

Thank you for making the choice to be a part of Women United.



BETH ARDISANA
Chair, Women United

IN OUR REGION, 44 PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS STRUGGLE TO MEET THEIR BASIC NEEDS LIKE FOOD, HOUSING AND HEALTH CARE.



FOOD



HOUSING



HEALTH CARE



FINANCES

If families can't meet their basic needs now, they can't help their children succeed now, or in the future. That's why United Way for Southeastern Michigan works to help households become stable and ensure children have the support they need to thrive. When families are equipped with the right tools and supports, they can ensure their children are ready to learn and prepared for success in life.

When we support children, our entire community wins.

Together, we can make a difference.





A close-up photograph of a young girl with blonde hair, wearing a red jacket with a pink collar and a blue and black patterned patch on the sleeve. She is holding a violin and a bow, appearing to be in the middle of playing. The background is slightly blurred, showing a patterned surface. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

WOMEN UNITED

is a dynamic group dedicated to promoting United Way's early childhood education work through **professional expertise, volunteerism and financial contributions.** Its devotion to this cause helps us ensure that parents and caregivers have the resources they need to help children meet developmental milestones.



Working with the Women United group allows me to make a positive, lasting difference in the lives of others. I love being a part of this fabulous group!

—JENNIFER CAUDELL

Senior Account Director, OneMagnify

WOMEN UNITED

**IS COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING FAMILIES AND CAREGIVERS
SO THEIR CHILDREN CAN LEARN, GROW AND THRIVE.**

The members of Women United have always focused their time, talent and gifts toward supporting United Way's work to ensure children have the support they need to thrive.

In 2019, the group focused their efforts on supporting United Way's initiative to help caregivers complete their Child Development Associate (CDA) training. This certification helps child care workers increase their skills, and helps care facilities earn higher ratings from the state's child care quality rating system. It also helps facilities access more federal funding to help the children in their care.

The result is a positive impact on children, and on our community as a whole.

When child care workers are properly trained, they can better support the children in their care. And when facilities increase their rating, access to high-quality child care expands for families.

Women United has supported this program through volunteerism, working directly with women and men going through the training to provide professional and personal support, and celebrating their successes. They have also raised more than \$150,000 to ensure more caregivers are able to complete the training free of cost.

When you join Women United, you'll have access to unique volunteer opportunities and networking events. You'll also be confident in the knowledge that you're making a difference in the lives of children in our community.

Email WomenUnited@UnitedWaySEM.org to get involved with Women United today.



317 hours

In 2019, 51 Women United members volunteered a total of 317 hours mentoring CDA participants and supporting United Way's work in the community.



\$156,000

raised for the CDA program in 2019



50

caregivers certified in 2018-19, each caring for as many as 20 children







WOMEN OF INFLUENCE SUMMIT

The Women of Influence Summit is an annual event hosted by United Way for Southeastern Michigan's Women United group. Since 2017, the event has served as a fundraiser for United Way's early childhood education work, as well as a day to honor the women who make our community great.

The summit is held every year on International Women's Day. Every year, speakers and attendees celebrate the impact that women make in Southeastern Michigan and in our world.

Speakers have included such notable women as Sen. Debbie Stabenow, former U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan Barbara McQuade and Wendy Steele, founder of the global philanthropic movement Impact 100.

Since its inception in 2017, the Women of Influence Summit has raised nearly \$500,000.