



NEWS

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Women United to Host 11th Annual Luncheon to Raise Funds for Literacy Programs

Keynote Speaker: Acclaimed Author & Historian Dr. Elizabeth Cobbs

ORLANDO, Fla. (Dec. 5, 2017) – For the 11th year, Heart of Florida United Way's Women United (formerly Women's Leadership Council) will host its annual luncheon to benefit the group's fight for early education and literacy. The Women United Luncheon will be held on Thursday, Feb. 22, 2018 from 11:30 – 1:30 at the Hyatt Regency Orlando.

This year's luncheon will feature a keynote address by Dr. Elizabeth Cobbs, award-winning historian and author of *The Hello Girls*, her most recent book which chronicles women who fought for America and for recognition as veterans. During the first World War, 223 members of the U.S. Army Signal Corps operated complicated switchboards in France to connect frontlines with military command – sometimes up to 150,000 calls a day.

"These brave women were recruited, physically tested, swore the Army oath, observed military protocol... but they weren't considered veterans," said Kari Conley, Orlando Health & Women United co-chair. "Women today can learn a lot from the grit and perseverance of these soldiers both on the battlefield and off. We look forward to reenergizing our own spirits during what will surely be an inspirational event."

Tickets are \$95 per person or \$1,750 for a corporate table of 10. Event sponsorship opportunities are available. All proceeds from the luncheon will go toward educational opportunities focused on increasing literacy in local schools. This year's luncheon is presented by Orlando Health's Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women and Babies and Tupperware Brands Corporation is a gold sponsor.

"Nearly 1,000 women gather every year to be inspired and grow together as the name of our group indicates – Women *United*," said Yolanda Londoño, Tupperware Brands Corporation and Women United co-chair. "We are thrilled to have Dr. Cobbs as our guest this year and look forward to bringing together Central Florida's most influential women for such a worthy cause."

For more information about the Women United Luncheon or to purchase tickets, visit www.UWWomenUnited.org or email WomenUnited@HFUW.org.

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About Heart of Florida United Way

Heart of Florida United Way (HFUW) is Central Florida's most comprehensive health and human services charity and the largest provider of funds to the region's most critical health and human service programs. Last year, it raised and managed \$24.4 million throughout Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties. HFUW is working to advance the common good by focusing on education, income, health and basic needs. It operates United Way 2-1-1, Central Florida's information and assistance, crisis, suicide and referral helpline; Volunteer Resource Center; Gifts In Kind Center; Emergency Homelessness Services; and the Ryan White Part B program, which administers more than \$2 million to provide HIV/AIDS services and referrals. HFUW impacts more than 650,000 individuals annually through its direct service and funded programs. United Way partners with local businesses, government, other



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charities to increase awareness of local health and human service issues and to inspire hope, provide options and create possibilities for people in need. Visit www.HFUW.org for more information, or call (407) 835-0900.

About Women United

Women United is an affinity group of Heart of Florida United Way that brings together passionate women. By combining the power of philanthropy, volunteerism and awareness, Women United addresses critical problems that affect women and children in Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties. Chaired by Yolanda Londano, Tupperware Brands Corporation, and Kari Conley, Orlando Health, Women United is guided by a steering committee of approximately 30 influential and compassionate women who invest their time and resources to make a difference.