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Women United to Host 13th Annual Luncheon to Inspire Women to Persevere to Achieve Goals

Keynote Speaker: Motivational Speaker, Author, Harvard Grad, First African American Paralympic Ski Medalist Bonnie St. John

ORLANDO, FL (February 17, 2020) – For the 13th year, Heart of Florida United Way's Women United will host its annual luncheon on Wednesday, March 11, 2020, from 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the Hilton Orlando on International Drive. Women United is a place for women to come together to find their voice and take a stand for issues that matter to them in their communities. Many of the group's members are leaders in their industry and use Women United as a platform to influence change in their community. In line with this mission, this year's luncheon will feature a keynote address by motivational speaker, Bonnie St. John about persistence.

Despite having her right leg amputated at age five, Bonnie St. John became the first African American ever to win medals in the Winter Olympic competition, taking home one silver and two bronze medals in downhill events at the 1984 Paralympics in Innsbruck, Austria. In recognition of this historic achievement, she was quoted on millions of Starbucks coffee cups and was honored at the White House by President George W. Bush. St. John has achieved the highest levels of success in a variety of endeavors throughout her life. In addition to her success as a Paralympic athlete, she is a best-selling author, a highly sought after keynote speaker, a television and radio personality, a business owner and a Fortune 500 leadership consultant.

"Year after year, this event brings powerhouse speakers from across the nation to share their stories of success and triumph with our local leaders," said Tracey Powell, vice president, Pricing & Revenue Management – Disney Signature Experiences and Women United luncheon co-chair. "As a result of this trailblazing event, I am confident that the impact in our community will continue to grow," she continued.

Each year women leaders are empowered through networking, volunteerism, and philanthropic opportunities. The 13th Annual Women United Luncheon shows no signs of slowing down and is set to provide a rewarding and inspiring experience.

"Women United provides women of Central Florida with a platform to connect with their passion and fight for changes to take place. The luncheon is a chance to network with like-minded women and take a stand for issues that matter most to our community," said Anne-Marie Hayward, Coached by Design & Women United luncheon co-chair.

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 supporting Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed – or ALICE – families in Central Florida. This year’s
luncheon is presented by Orlando Health and the Gold Sponsor is Publix Super Markets.

“Women United brings some of the most influential women of Central Florida together to make a difference in our community,” said Karen Keene, Dean Mead P.A. & Women United co-chair. “We are thrilled to have Bonnie St. John as our guest this year and look forward to being inspired by her persistence and tenacity to achieve her goals.”

Women United is a force for positive change in Central Florida. Comprised of a network of passionate advocates, it joins United Way’s fight for the health, education and financial stability of every person in the region. As a global force of over 70,000 women, the local chapter of Women United invites emerging women leaders to join the movement.

For more information about the luncheon 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 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. Women United is chaired by Kari Conley, Duke Energy, and Karen Keene, Dean, Mead, Egerton, Bloodworth, Capouano & Bozarth, P.A. Women United Luncheon chairs are Anne-Marie Hayward, Coached by Design, and Tracey Powell, Walt Disney World Resort.