Heart of Florida United Way Announces Women United® 2020-2021 Leadership

Orlando, Fla. (March 5, 2021) – Heart of Florida United Way (HFUW) has announced the new 2020-2021 Women United® Leadership and Steering Committee. Elisha Gonzalez, Vice President of Government Affairs and Community Relations and Executive Director of FAIRWINDS Foundation, is the new chair; and the new vice chair is Lisa Curran, Director of Marketing and Community Engagement at OUC – The Reliable One.

Supporting Gonzalez and Curran is a steering committee of 22 members leading the charge and inspiring change throughout Central Florida through Women United®: Kari Conley, immediate past chair, with Duke Energy; Lindsay Abt with EY; Kathy Brown with Johnson & Johnson Human Performance Institute; Cathy Brown-Butler with Bank of America; Vivian Burbage with Enterprise Holdings; Meghan Curren with Advent Health; Melanie DiVirgilio with Truist; Ixchell Duarte with CNL; Helen Donegan, Chair Emerita; Lena Graham-Morris, Horus Construction Services; Jose Gonzalez with Walt Disney World® Resort; Anne-Marie Hayward with Coached by Design; Danielle Hollander with Visit Orlando; Samantha Kearns-O’Lenick with Advent Health; Belinda Kirkegard with the City of Kissimmee; Sherry Magee with KPMG; Maritza Martinez with the University of Central Florida; Juliana Peña with the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority (GOAA); Giorgina L. Pinedo-Rolon with the City of Orlando; Tracey Powell with the Walt Disney World® Resort; Alyse Quinn with Big Vision; and Christina Ruiz with Tupperware Brands Corporation.

Women United® is an action-oriented, impact-driven group of Central Florida leaders dedicated to empowering the women and children of ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) families, who are one emergency away from financial disaster. Since the group’s inception in 2007, they’ve advocated in Tallahassee; volunteered with organizations serving this population; and hosted their own events to assist with job interview training, educational sessions about car seat safety, nutrition, early development – and much more.

As part of a powerful, global network of more than 70,000 women leaders, Women United® takes a stand against the most critical issues facing more than 165 communities in six countries. As an integral part of Heart of Florida United Way, Women United® fights for the health, education and financial stability of every person in Central Florida. The group tackles the issues that matter most to the people who call it home. It empowers each other to leverage their passions, ideas, expertise and resources to boost every child’s chance for success in school, work and life.

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By strategically investing in local solutions and leveraging a worldwide footprint, Women United® is able to positively impact Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties while also being part of the bigger picture and broader cause. Visit www.hfuw.org/womenunited to learn more about the work Women United through Heart of Florida United Way or email WomenUnited@HFUW.org. To learn more about the upcoming annual virtual luncheon, visit http://uwwomenunited.org/

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 delivered more than $23M in programs and services 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; Emergency Homelessness Services; and the Ryan White Part B program, which administers nearly $3M to provide HIV/AIDS services and referrals. HFUW impacts more than 490,000 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. It received the GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency in 2020. Visit www.HFUW.org for more information, or call (407) 835-0900. Follow us on Facebook @HeartofFloridaUnitedWay or Instagram and Twitter @hfuw.

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