



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Women United Launched at Standing Room Only Event

MACON, Jan 25 – United Way of Central Georgia launched Women United at the “We are United” inaugural luncheon on January 24, 2017 at Middle Georgia State University in Macon.

Women United is a community of women from across Central Georgia who come together for one purpose – to address the critical issues women and children face in our communities. Women United is part of a powerful, global network within United Way of over 70,000 women leaders across more than 165 communities and six countries, all focused on building stronger communities. Women United is a unique community of women who share a common sense of purpose and a shared belief in mutual empowerment, all aimed at fortifying our communities.

At the event, United Way of Central Georgia Vice President Betsy Fitzgerald shared her excitement about the new group. “Communities need champions who understand their problems, see their potential, and offer solutions that will make a difference. Women United will ignite the power of women - who bring the passion, expertise, and resources needed to get things done - to create lasting change in their communities.”

The sold-out luncheon featured keynote speaker Nadine Gramling, the “Lady of Steel,” a Lyons, Georgia native who became the first woman CEO of a steel company and Jacksonville attorney Melinda Patterson, a graduate of the PACE School for Girls in Florida.

The event also heralded the accomplishments of women and organizations in the community.

Marlene Humphry, 2017 Unsung Hero Award Recipient

Marlene found her calling as a community volunteer in 2007 and since then has served in multiple roles with nonprofit organizations throughout Central Georgia including the Byron Lions Club, the American Association of University Women, Temple Beth Israel, Daybreak, and Macon Outreach. Cynthia Smith and Tabitha Walker were also nominees for this award.

The Unsung Hero Award recognizes a woman who has gone above and beyond the call of duty. This is a special woman who has done extra special things for their community, those in need, or for someone unable to do things for themselves, in relation to life saving, education, health and welfare, community involvement and betterment. This special person has done the good works without receiving pay or expecting praise or recognition.

Lynn Murphey, 2017 Glass Ceiling Award Recipient

Lynn is the newly named Macon Director for the Knight Foundation. Dr. Pam Carswell, Robin Crosby, and June O’Neal were also nominees for this award.

America’s workplace has been and continues to be dominated by men especially in the area of leadership. Although women are significantly underrepresented in leadership positions, there are



women who have overcome barriers to climb to the top. The Glass Ceiling Award recognizes and honors these women who have not only achieved personal success but have made it possible for others to more easily follow in their footsteps.

Mentors Project of Bibb County, June O'Neal Executive Director, 2017 Outstanding Organization Award Recipient

Mentors Project provides one-on-one as well as group mentors to Bibb County Public School Middle and high school students. It provides wrap around services that include but are not limited to: food, clothing, and school supplies. Mentors Project programs include academic summer program, teen pregnancy and drug abuse prevention, financial literacy, leadership academy, and etiquette. The 2016 Mentors Project Graduation rate was 100%.

The Outstanding Organization Award recognizes an organization that has made an outstanding contribution to support and/or youth, through the development or provision of a high quality and innovative program, project, or specific service. The Otis Redding Foundation was also a nominee for this award.

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