**For Immediate Release**

4/21/2015

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**United Way of Greater Topeka’s Women United program celebrates 10 years of success**

TOPEKA, KAN. (April 21, 2015) – Women United, a program, of United Way of Greater Topeka, celebrated its 10th year of empowering women in the community. Women United is a grant program designed to help women and families in emergency and/or life altering situations by providing funds that cannot be found anywhere else. The program was started by Martha Bartlett-Piland, along with Michele Billam, Pam Bransted, Vickie Brokke, Jane Chandler Holt, Michel’ Cole, Julie Connor, Debbie Davis, Lisa Gilchrist, Linda Ramierz Gonzalez, Jeri Hansen, Sue Lockett, Mary Lou McPhail, Diane Oakes, Glenda Overstreet, Parry Pressman, Janie Rutherford and Georgia Shannon, in hopes to inspire women.

“Now, more than ever, our community needs strong leadership from women desiring to make a difference for others. Women United is making a lasting impact in the lives of women and children by meeting life-changing needs—needs that can’t be met anywhere else,” said Bartlett-Piland, Women United Founding Chair.

Since its inception Women United has helped 326 families through the distribution of more than $72,000 in grants. Many of the grants help women and children with healthcare needs, shelter, financial stability, basic necessities for employment (including education) and safety from domestic violence.

“It is amazing to watch what can happen when women come together to help others. United Way is honored to be a part of this work,” said Miriam Krehbiel, President and CEO of United Way of Greater Topeka.

Women United is dedicated to inspiring, educating and mobilizing all women to effect change in their community through philanthropy and leadership. 100% of each donation goes to Women United and is used to help women and families in emergency and/or life threatening situations by providing funds that cannot be attained anywhere else. For more information on how you can get involved visit <https://www.unitedwaytopeka.org/give/leadership/women/> or call 785.273.4804.

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**ABOUT UNITED WAY**

## United Way brings together people, companies and nonprofits to create positive sustainable change in our community. By focusing on education, income and health, we help more children graduate and get stable jobs, help families become financially stable and improve

## the overall health of our community. United Way remains dedicated to Basic Needs including food, shelter, rent and utilities, health and prescription access and safety from domestic violence.

For more than 80 years United Way of Greater Topeka has been improving and changing lives. Since 1980, United Way has invested more than $110 million into the community.