



For more information contact:

Sharon Messerschmidt

712.255.3551

smesserschmidt@unitedwaysiouxland.com

For Immediate Release

Women United of Siouxland Awards Grants to Local Non-Profits on International Women's Day

(Sioux City) – On International Women's Day, Women United of Siouxland awarded funding grants to seven non-profit organizations serving Siouxland children.

"There really isn't a more appropriate day for us to make these awards," said Krissy Lamoreaux, Chairperson of Women United's Executive Committee. "This year our group is made up of forty-six strong, smart women who are extremely dedicated to Siouxland's children. Individually each one of these women have made positive things happen in our community through their generosity and leadership. However, by working with each other, the United Way of Siouxland, local non-profit organizations, and by pooling our resources, we are able to increase the impact of our donation dollars and most importantly, the impact on children's lives."

Over \$92,000 in awards were given including:

HEART LAND COUNSELING SERVICE IINC.

Heartland Counseling Services provides quality mental health and substance abuse services to individuals ages 3-103 in Siouxland. Their Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) program helps children and families understand and manage behavioral problems at a young age and sets children on the path to successful mental health and stimulates healthier relationships and interactions. A \$1,926 program grant Women United grant will purchase equipment, furniture, therapy appropriate play toys, and cleaning supplies to double the number of 2–8-year-olds and their caregivers that receive through that program.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES DIOCESE OF SIOUX CITY

With the mission of improving the lives of local children, teens, and their families, Catholic Charities is partnering with the Boys and Girls Club of Sioux City to deliver consistent quality mental health care to those who would very likely not have access to these important services. A Women United Brighter Futures grant of \$21,269 will help provide the full-time services of a licensed therapist for therapy and psychiatric support to members as part of the Boys and Girls Club's summer programming.

MERCY ONE CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

Child abuse is a public health issue with up to 1 in 4 children experiencing some form of abuse or neglect in their lifetime. The Mercy One Child Advocacy Center offers in-school programming to 500 third grade students annually to help them prevent, interrupt, and speak up about physical, emotional, sexual, and cyber abuse, neglect, bullying, and drug endangerment. A Women United Brighter Futures grant of \$4255 will provide a specially trained Speak Up Be Safe instructor and materials for lessons centered around the five safety rules, "It's MY Body", "Ask an Adult if I am Safe", "I have Choices", "Tell Someone", and "It's Never My Fault".

URBAN NATIVE CENTER

With the mission of improving the success of native youth by improving educational attainment, reducing poverty by addressing barriers, and promoting empowerment through cultural teaching, the Urban Native Center serves nearly one hundred native youth per year with a goal of reaching 250 youth annually. To assist the Urban Native Center as they provide critical academic support, a Women United Brighter Futures Grant of \$16,000 will purchase laptops to be used at the center.

SIOUXLAND FOSTER CLOSET

Starting in 2018, the Siouxland Foster Closet is a volunteer-run organization that supports hundreds of foster children each year. A \$20,000 Women United Brighter Futures grant will help them purchase clothing and necessities that are free of charge for children in out-of-home placement and the families that care for them, in addition to providing funds to assist with materials and supplies for their new home on Geneva Street.

THE CRITTENTON CENTER

With the mission of sheltering, educating, and empowering children, individuals and families, the Crittenton Center offers nearly 150 homeless youth ages 7-18 years a healing centered therapeutic classroom experience. A \$6200 Women United Brighter Futures grant will supply desks, noise reduction earphones, a projector, sensory rugs, and classroom supplies to help the Crittenton Center offer vital educational services based on each student's individual learning needs.

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

With the rally cry "No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in Our Town" the 100% volunteer operated and donation funded Sleep in Heavenly Peace Sioux City Chapter has built and delivered over 350 fully furnished beds since its inception in September 2021. A Women United Brighter Futures grant of \$25,000 will provide materials, mattresses, pillows, and bedding for approximately 100 beds.

Since 2006 Siouxland's Women United has awarded nearly one and a quarter million dollars to local non-profit groups aimed at providing research-based, life-improving programs for Siouxland youth. Globally, Women United, part of United Way Worldwide, is a growing force of over 75,000+ women dedicated to creating a world of opportunity for everyone.

Women who are interested in joining Women United of Siouxland are invited to contact the United Way at 712-255-3551 or visit the website at www.unitedwaysiouxland.com/women-united.

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