



United Way of  
Waco-McLennan County

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United Way of Waco-McLennan County  
1516 Austin Ave, Suite 2  
Waco, TX 76701  
(254) 752-2753

## News Release

Contact: Mary Beth Kauk  
[marybethkauk@unitedwaywaco.org](mailto:marybethkauk@unitedwaywaco.org)  
(254) 752-2753  
[www.UnitedWayWaco.org](http://www.UnitedWayWaco.org)

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### **United Way of Waco-McLennan County Affinity Group, Women United, Partners with the MCC Foundation to Award Scholarships to Underserved Women Pursuing Higher Education**

**Waco, Texas** – July 19, 2019 –The United Way of Waco-McLennan County (UWWMC) is pleased to announce its affinity group, Women United, has awarded scholarships to two female graduates from the Adult Literacy and Education Heart of Texas. Both recipients are working mothers pursuing nursing degrees at McLennan Community College.

“Women United mobilizes a diverse network of women in McLennan County to strengthen the community by investing in local programs that enable women to achieve their goals and positively impact their lives,” said Women United Waco Chair Kris Kaiser Olson. “Money raised by Women United through membership dues and fundraising events provides funding to support education scholarships for women.”

Data from the Global Partnership for Education shows educating women has a multiplier effect. According to research, educated women tend to be healthier, earn more income, and provide better health care for themselves their children. These benefits also are transmitted from generation to generation and across communities at large, making women’s education one of the best investments a community can make.

Women United scholarship funds are managed in partnership with the McLennan Community College Foundation. MCC Foundation staff will manage the disbursement of the scholarship funds for the recipients to oversee tuition payment, books, uniform and equipment purchases as needed. Any remainder of the scholarship will be available to the student through an emergency grant application for unexpected barriers.

"This partnership is breaking new ground for us at the MCC Foundation," said Executive Director Kim Patterson. "Our Adult Education students have shown tremendous perseverance and are perfectly suited to succeed in college. With this new funding from Women United, we



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can now provide scholarship support for these women, giving them the opportunity to change the social and economic trajectory for their entire family."

The Adult Education and Literacy program provides English language, math, reading, writing and workforce training instruction to help adult students acquire the skills needed to succeed in the workforce, earn a high school equivalency certificate, and enter and succeed in college or workforce training.

"Attaining your GED as an adult and pursuing college can seem like a daunting task for women already juggling busy lives," said Adult Education and Literacy Transition Specialist Michelle Telg. "Scholarships like the Women United Scholarships help traditionally underserved students overcome the barriers that keep them from an education to better their lives and the lives of their families."

As an integral part of UWWMC, Women United is committed to creating an effective female-driven philanthropic force to improve life for women in McLennan County. The Waco Chapter is part of a growing, global network of women leaders, over 70,000 strong across more than 165 communities in six countries.

The work of Women United Waco is aligned with UWWMC's Impact Framework, by providing women with access to education and job skills training needed to obtain a sustainable job and increase their family's financial stability and economic status.

Scholarship recipients will also participate in financial literacy training classes taught in partnership with First National Bank of Central Texas. Participants will receive customizable financial literacy training based on their personal needs and financial interests.

For more information about Women United Waco, visit [www.UnitedWayWaco.org](http://www.UnitedWayWaco.org).

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### **About United Way of Waco-McLennan County**

The mission of United Way of Waco-McLennan County United Way of Waco-McLennan County strengthens the community by mobilizing resources to measurably improve lives. For nearly 90 years, United Way of Waco-McLennan County has focused on strengthening our community and creating opportunity for *every* resident through inspired and informed philanthropy and partnerships to address our greatest challenges. We fight for the [health](#), [education](#), [financial stability](#), and [safety net services](#) of every person in McLennan County. UWWMC works with corporate, private and civic leaders to strengthen programs that support and empower children, families, and individuals. Through the generous support of our donors and the strength of our non-profit partners, we are effectively building a strong foundation for our community's future health and well-being. Alongside our community partnerships, we are working to



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affect equitable, systemic change in education, health, financial stability, and safety net services so that all people achieve their full potential. For more information, [www.unitedwaywaco.org](http://www.unitedwaywaco.org).

### **About McLennan Community College**

The McLennan Community College Foundation promotes quality higher education that enriches the academic, economic and cultural life of its diverse community. To further this mission, the Foundation acquires financial resources and strengthens support to fund scholarships, professional development and capital improvements for the students, faculty and staff of the College and the broader communities it serves. In so doing, the Foundation hopes to enhance quality of life, encourage success and positively change the futures of students and their families. Since its inception in 1990, the McLennan Community College Foundation has awarded more than 5,700 student scholarships totaling over \$5.5 million. We are proud that many of the students assisted by the Foundation remain in McLennan County to become leaders in the community in which they were educated. For more information, visit [www.mclennan.edu/foundation](http://www.mclennan.edu/foundation).