

## LIFE UNITED Monthly Newsletter VOL.1 SEPTEMBER 17, 2022



## **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

United Way of Waco-McLennan County launched the Loaned Executive program to continue to build connections in our community between the business and nonprofit sector. We also held our annual campaign kick-off on August 17th and are looking forward to running our 99th campaign!

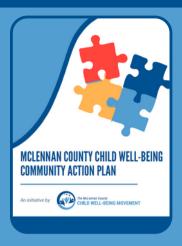
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## **GRANTS/FUNDED PARTNERS**

The first round of funded partner site visits were a success and informative for those who were able to attend. Site visits are an excellent opportunity for our United Way volunteers (including Board, committee, and CIC members/FRC), staff and interns to see "where the money is going."

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## **CHILD WELL-BEING**

United Way and our partners in the McLennan County Child Well-being Movement have launched a Community Action Plan! Read more about how McLennan County parents and community organizations have collaborated to develop strategies aimed at better supporting our youngest residents.

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**COMMUNITY** 

Grandparent's Day was this past Sunday and we want you to be able to reflect on fond memories and the impact your grandparent's have on your life during the month of September. Wendy Ellis, our CEO, reflects on the impact of her MiMi this Grandparent's Day!

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# Upcoming Events (next 6 weeks)

- LE Meeting Oct. 14, 11:30-2:00, Location TBD
- If you are one of our funded partners or workplace campaigns and have an event/events that you would like us to include in this section, please reach out to info@unitedwaywaco.org

## **Board Member Spotlight**



Tammy Richards
United Way Board Chair
extracobanks.com

#### Tell us about yourself and how you came to be a Board Member at United Way of Waco-McLennan County:

I grew up in the Dallas area and came to Waco in 1986 to attend Baylor University. I met my husband, Brandon, at school, and we have lived in Waco ever since. We have two kids, Riley and Kendall, who were born and raised in this wonderful community. I am a commercial lender at Extraco Banks, which is how I originally became involved with the United Way. After several years of serving on committees and running the campaign at Extraco Banks, I was asked to join the Board of Directors. I was grateful to be asked, and it has been a true blessing to serve this organization and champion its efforts to make McLennan County as strong and vibrant as possible for all who live here.

#### Why do you love United Way?

I love our local United Way for a lot of reasons including getting to work with an extremely high quality staff who pursue our mission with their whole heart every day. For 99 years, our United Way has provided funding to local non-profits to support their efforts in our community. Our United Way is focused on funding programs that are delivering much-needed services to help "move the needle" on long-standing issues so that everyone in our community has a chance to thrive. The zip code that one is born into should not be a determining factor in the outcome of one's life. It is my great hope that we will be able to have a wonderful campaign this year so that we are able to provide even more funding for those programs that are on the front-lines fighting to change the trajectory for children and families in our county so that they can have the quality of life that they deserve.

#### Why are grandparents (or extended family in general) important to you?

Although all of my grandparents have passed on, I can still vividly remember feeling very loved and cherished by both of my grandmothers growing up. Although we lived far apart, our once-a-year visits were full of fun. I remember making homemade chicken and dumplings, planting flower seeds to see if they would be grown by my next visit and listening to baseball games on the radio. My kids (now 20 and 24) have had the good fortune to live near their grandparents for most of their lives so they have gotten to experience both quality time and quantity time with extended family. I feel that the wisdom and perspective that an older generation can provide to a younger generation is so important and really provides lasting memories for both.