

Women impacting the community

"Everyone has inside of her a piece of good news. The good news is that you don't know how great you can be! How much you can love! What you can accomplish! And what your potential is!"

Anne Frank



**Amanda
Burt**

The quote from Anne Frank immediately makes me think of United Way's Women's Leadership Council and the influence that a diverse network of caring, powerful women have when they join together to drive lasting change in our community. Grounded in the idea that addressing the most critical local needs lifts the community as a whole and creates a better life for all of us, Women's Leadership Council members stand up, unite and take action on issues that hit closest to home by giving, advocating and volunteering.

I invite interested women in our community to join co-chairs Dixie Kinard, Karen Townsend and Lynn Whitworth as we celebrate the fourth year of the United Way Women's Leadership Council at our

Spring Symposium at The Farm. You will have the opportunity to learn about the power of emotional intelligence from keynote speaker Debbie Hackman-Bartlett, CEO of the Georgia Nurses Association. The symposium is

April 22 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration is required by Friday, April 17, and is \$20 for members of the Women's Leadership Council and \$30 for friends and guests. The Women's Leadership Council is a group of women truly generous in heart and spirit who bring vision, energy, talent and creativity to improve lives in our community and create lasting change. Representing all backgrounds including professionals, community volunteers, philanthropists and business leaders, these women energize the entire community to impact lives in Northwest Georgia.

Last year, our Women's Leadership Council grew to 294 local members who contributed \$1,059,625 to

improve lives. What is even more exciting is that 53 were new members — what a powerful movement we have created!

Cynthia Gibson, executive vice president and chief legal officer for Scripps Networks Interactive which includes HGTV, serves as the chair of United Way National Women's Leadership Council, which is the most successful philanthropic network of its kind. Within the last decade, Women's Leadership Councils across the nation have joined together to focus on the building blocks for a good life: education, basic needs and health and have collectively contributed more than \$1 billion to further these efforts.

Women's Leadership Council Events in 2015:

■ In March, we feed the hungry by packing food boxes at Salvation Army, a United Way Community Partner.

■ April 22: Spring Symposium, featuring Debbie Hackman-Bartlett, CEO of the Georgia Nurses Association, at The Farm.

■ June 3: Volunteer project, serving breakfast at Camp AIM.

■ Aug. 7: Impact Tour.
■ Sept. 17: Peacock Palooza at The Farm.

■ Oct. 23: Make A Difference Day Project, sponsored by Brown Industries.

■ December: Holiday social at a member's home.

Our Women's Leadership Council is more than philanthropy. It's about giving women the training, resources, and information needed to be effective community volunteers and leaders.

Members make a household gift of \$1,000 or more annually to United Way of Northwest Georgia, enabling countless lives to be improved. You can join at ourunitedway.org, by calling Margaret Zeisig at (706) 876-1599 or by completing a paper pledge card at any of our events.

You have the chance to be part of a movement — a movement which can raise our community to new heights and make real change in the future. Change won't happen without us.

Amanda Burt is president of the United Way of Northwest Georgia.