

UNITED WAY
WOMEN UNITED[®]
NOTES & NEWS



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WHY WOMEN UNITED?

Courtney C. Smith, Women United Leadership Team



"I'm often asked,

'Why do you volunteer?'

I volunteer because I'm partial to the women we're privileged to serve. Women United teams up with Porter County PACT Recovery Connection to have weekly meetings and social gatherings with women in recovery.

Supporting women in our community in addiction recovery is vital to their success! Growing up, I was exposed to alcoholism and had a sibling recover from addiction; I also see many of my family law clients struggle with addiction or sobriety. I believe there is no shame in having an addiction. When our community stands beside those who are suffering and says, "I am with you," the impact can be life-changing.

I've volunteered at the Recovery Connection one Monday a month for the last six months as part of my commitment to Women United. I have brought some sass, fun and friendship to the group meetings. I have pretended to be a yoga instructor, carved pumpkins, painted canvases, hosted a bean bag championship and even made hot chocolate bombs with the ladies of Alice's House. I put my personality out there for the ladies to really know that I am sincere. Helping women build relationships outside their communal living circle really supports their personal rehabilitation goals.

Finding volunteerism that brings both you and the group to whom you are giving time complete joy is an experience that I hope everyone in our community is able to find. Sometimes, volunteering can feel like work. I promise you that I have not felt like this is another task or job to check off my agenda. I enjoy spending time with the ladies at Recovery Connection, and they have told me how much they appreciate how we create fun activities to do together.

I'm honored to have been able to give them some quality social activities that connect them to the world they plan to rejoin. We can't wait to do some hikes at the Dunes in the spring, but until then, we will find some more indoor activities to do as long as the winter weather holds on!

If you have questions or want learn more about volunteering at Recovery Connection, please email at courtney@smithlg.com anytime! I'm more than happy to talk with you."



COURTNEY C. SMITH,
Attorney, Smith Legal Group, LLC



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that you do to serve women in recovery in our community!"

2020 was anything but usual for our Women United program. I'm so incredibly proud of you and your flexibility and willingness to adapt in order to serve: Monday night classes moved to Zoom, class supplies are now organized and delivered days ahead of time, and you've all handled the extra challenges with grace. Despite the changes in how we can reach and spread love to our neighbors who need our support, you've stayed connected to each other and the women we serve.

Carrie, Kathy, Stephany and Courtney have stepped up as this year's Leadership Team to create an incredible vision—thank you! Together, we're imagining new fundraising events, raising program awareness, engaging new connections and creating a positive impact in our community. I can't wait to see where this year takes us!"

KASIE TENBARGE

Women United Program Director & Director of Development

2021 LEADERSHIP TEAM



CARRIE HIGGINS, CO-CHAIR

Program Director, Tobacco Education and Prevention Coalition for Porter County, Valparaiso University

"Women United provides a valuable opportunity for all women in the community to share friendship, knowledge, skills and resources. I find it rewarding and inspiring to collaborate with this great group of ladies who have chosen to uplift lives at a time when they need encouragement and support the most."



STEPHANY LEONARD, VICE-CHAIR

Service Center Manager, Teachers Credit Union

"Life throws challenges at you that are hard to overcome sometimes. Seeing the strength and commitment these ladies have to become better is what made me want to be more involved. As much as they think we are helping them, the reality is, they are helping us."



KATHY RICKE, CO-CHAIR

Owner, Blessings & Blooms

"I was honored to serve as the 2020 Events Chair and am thrilled to be asked to co-chair the leadership team this year. I truly believe in Women United's mission of creating lasting change to uplift entire communities and I can't wait to see what we can accomplish."



COURTNEY C. SMITH, NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR

Attorney, Smith Legal Group, LLC

"I firmly believe in empowering women. Helping women grow and succeed gives me a strong sense of sisterhood. I started volunteering with Women United on Monday evenings at Recovery Connection last summer, spending time and energy on activities with the ladies of Alice's House. So far, we have done yoga, painted, carved pumpkins and competed in a bean bag toss tournament. Our time together is really great and a wonderful stress reliever for the ladies and myself."

OUR COLLECTIVE IMPACT

Together, we are 150 members strong and we all participate in different ways! Some volunteers teach on Monday nights to women in recovery, some ladies help organize events and fundraisers, some enjoy giving financial gifts to support our work, some enjoy networking and everyone helps out behind the scenes with their connections and expertise to keep our community strong and caring. There is a place for everyone here.

MARCH MEETING

Join us on Wednesday, March 31 at 12pm or 5pm on Zoom! We'll email out links and also post them in the [WU Facebook group](#).

Ultimate Rate,
Ultimate Returns.
Ultimate Checking.



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MONDAY NIGHT VOLUNTEERS

Can you help volunteer every other Monday in April and May? Monday night classes with women from Alice's House are held via Zoom.

Email Tina at tina@unitedwaypc.org to sign up to teach.

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NEW AMAZON WISHLIST—ALICE'S HOUSE

Help provide items to the ladies currently living at Alice's House or who are transitioning out! Staff at Alice's House will keep this list updated with current needs. Give today at amzn.to/3l08Z3w.

“Each time a woman stands up for herself...
she stands up for all women.”

— Maya Angelou



Join Women United, a global community of women leaders within United Way. Together, we will create lasting change to lift up entire communities.

The United Way of Porter County fights for the health, education and financial stability of every resident in Porter County. Together with more than 400 community partners, 2,300 donors and 4,000 volunteers, we are uplifting lives across Porter County and Northwest Indiana.

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