

# ENGAGE. EMPOWER. GRADUATE.

## Steering Committees

### Women in Philanthropy

Jennifer Woostat, Chair  
 Michelle St.Clair, Vice Chair  
 Stephanie Frana, Past Chair  
 Wendie Baker  
 Nancy G. Biggs  
 Michelle Bring  
 Tammie Burns  
 Jenni Christiansen  
 Lora Convey  
 Staci Hass  
 Priscilla Henkelmann  
 Paula Hodges  
 Kelly McKeever  
 Char Moon  
 Sheila Odom  
 Elizabeth Rude  
 Lona Thompson  
 Carol Watson  
 Natalia Witla

### Emerging Leaders United

Chrissy Waldo, Chair  
 Katie Thompson, Past Chair  
 Adam Barrickman  
 Michelle Bring  
 T.J. Casady  
 Amanda Dutton  
 Mark Felt  
 Erin Hart  
 Shawna Hightree  
 Matt Kasik  
 Kim Keller  
 Tiffany Mousel  
 Jenna Salomons  
 Lona Thompson  
 Emily Voss

## WHY VOLUNTEERS ARE ACTIVE

Not only does the **ENGAGE. EMPOWER. GRADUATE.** initiative address and identify the disadvantages faced by children and families in local elementary schools, it also brings together members of Women United (WU) and Emerging Leaders United (ELU) with community members to actively volunteer in making a difference.

The benefits of volunteering are not exclusive to those being served, but also to those serving. Volunteering gives a sense of purpose to your life, boosts your self-esteem by building your social network and makes you feel good!



"I can see when I go to Jump Start on the first day that some of these kiddos can't hold a pencil correctly. For them to be able to practice writing their name by the end of Jump Start is just remarkable! Learning letter and number recognition, understanding routines, and being so excited for the structure is just totally amazing. I am filled with hopes and dreams for these little people getting such a positive start to their school career and excited to see what they accomplish." —*Shawna Hightree*

"It has been proven that the kids who attend Jump Start to Kindergarten are testing at higher levels than the kids that do not. When you volunteer for the week of Jump Start, you can actually watch the progression the kids make from day one to the end of the program. You get to know them, their personalities, and then you continue to see them in future grade levels as you continue to spend time volunteering at the school through **ENGAGE. EMPOWER. GRADUATE.**" —*T.J. Casady*



"I have been blessed to be able to financially support the students and families at McPhee and Campbell Elementary schools through ELU and I love being a part of a team that comes together for such a great cause. I have three small children and I understand the time and money that I have given to support **ENGAGE. EMPOWER. GRADUATE.** is going to children who do not have the opportunities that most children have. These children will grow up to be contributors to this community right alongside my own children." —*Erin Hart*

"Some of these children do not have the strongest support systems or sometimes have a lot going on at home that most of us can't even imagine. I volunteer to hopefully make a difference in their lives and provide some support and positive encouragement for them." —*Chrissy Waldo*



United Way's 2017  
Virtual Book Drive

Goal: \$12,000

Current Total:  
\$9,460



Text BOOKS17 to 41444

for an easy way to contribute to the United Way Virtual Book Drive

Please make checks payable to United Way.



To learn more about WU/ELU, please contact **Lona Thompson** at **402.441.7213** or **lthompson@unitedwaylincoln.org**.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 11

Emerging Leaders United  
Networking  
Breezy Island Ice

Sept. 20, 11:45 am-1:00 pm

Women's Leadership Council  
Lunch & Learn

Sponsored by:

WELLS  
FARGO

Nov. 13, 5:00-6:30 pm

Women United Networking  
Stem Gallery

Sponsored by:



November & December

Volunteer: Season of Service

## INITIATIVE PROGRAMS:

### + Early Childhood Development

**GOAL:** Preparing children for kindergarten.

### + Family Engagement and Support

**GOAL:** Engaging parents with the school.

### + Adult Education

**GOAL:** Teaching both parents and students English.

### + Mental Health and Family Support

**GOAL:** Address behavioral and emotional barriers to learning through the support of a school-based therapist.

### + Extended Learning Opportunities

**GOAL:** Enrichment outside of the classroom to enhance development opportunities and reduce summertime grade level loss.

### + Youth Development

**GOAL:** Providing students with strong role models through mentoring relationships to foster educational engagement.

### + Prevention Services

**GOAL:** Reaching out to families in their homes to build safe environments and prevent child entrance into protective services.



## HOW CAN I MAKE AN IMPACT?

**ENGAGE. EMPOWER. GRADUATE.** initiative is a joint undertaking by Women United (WU) and Emerging Leaders United (ELU). Together we're identifying and addressing the disadvantages that children and families face in local elementary school communities to ensure children and their families, regardless of circumstances, have the opportunity to succeed in school and life through key strategies.

Women United and the Emerging Leaders United members give at these four levels:



- + **WU/ELU Promoters:** minimum annual gift of \$500
- + **WU/ELU Supporters:** minimum annual gift of \$1,000
- + **WU/ELU Investors:** minimum annual gift of \$1,500
- + **WU/ELU Leaders:** minimum annual gift of \$2,500

UNITED WAY  
WOMEN  
UNITED

EMERGING  
LEADERS

COMMUNITY  
HEALTH CHARITIES  
NEBRASKA

LIVE UNITED  
United Way

United Way of Lincoln  
and Lancaster County  
UnitedWayLincoln.org



For event updates, photos and information, like us on Facebook or visit our website at [unitedwaylincoln.org](http://unitedwaylincoln.org)