



Mile High United Way

# IMPACT REPORT 2019-2020



## MILE HIGH UNITED WAY WOMEN UNITED<sup>®</sup> INITIATIVE

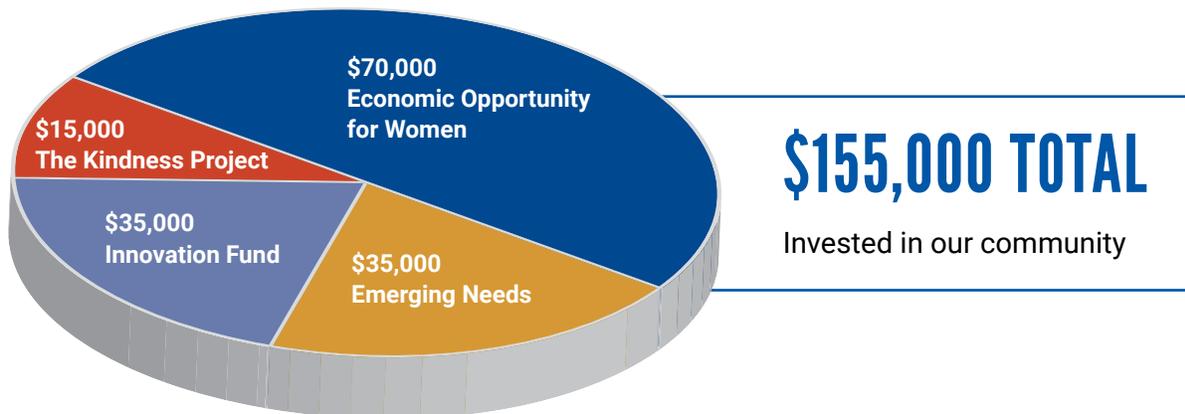
Mile High United Way's Women United addresses the biggest challenges facing women and children by investing in high impact programs, responding to emerging needs in our community, and taking action as volunteers and advocates for Metro Denver's women and girls.

THE WOMEN UNITED INITIATIVE PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR:

- **Education and awareness** of issues affecting women and girls in our community
- **Investment** in impact-focused and collaborative community efforts focused on women and girls
- **Engagement** opportunities for Women United members through volunteerism

# WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES

Donations to the Women United Initiative are strategically invested in programs and services that support the advancement of women and girls in our community.



## BECAUSE OF YOU:

5,692

Girls and women served

19,660

Nights of safe shelter provided

157

Women and girls gained employment

361

Girls and women received job coaching or skills workshops

1,086

Girls and women received academic support

## ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN

The Economic Opportunity for Women funding supports the Strategic Investment Grant (SIG) funds granted to Mile High United Way partner agencies that provide services for women and girls. Here are the agencies that were supported:

- Center for Work Education and Employment
- Mi Casa Resource Center
- The Gathering Place
- Safehouse Denver
- The Delores Project
- Florence Crittenton
- Work Options for Women
- Warren Village
- Girls, Inc. of Metro Denver



I knew I was bettering myself and my life by taking this training. I could tell this was the type of job I wanted, and I could see a future in banking. I got hired at a local credit union as a teller as soon as I graduated from the class. I really fit in here and I enjoy waking up and going to work every day. And having a better paying job has helped take some of the strain off my family life.”

– Keyona, Client at MiCasa Resource Center

# INNOVATION FUND: ECDC AFRICAN COMMUNITY CENTER DRIVING OPPORTUNITY

The ECDC African Community Center's Driving Opportunity will be a female-centered, affordable driving school, run for women by women. Driving Opportunity will offer culturally competent driving classes and in-car instruction to best meet diverse refugee and immigrant clients' cultural and religious needs.

The COVID-19 pandemic has required this program's start be put on hold, but the ECDC African Community Center is looking forward to helping women gain greater access to independence, income, and opportunity through their driving program.



**Though the Driving Opportunity program was unexpectedly delayed due to COVID-19, the ECDC African Community Center has continued to serve refugee and immigrant women with their most important needs. We look forward to sharing the progress and impact of this program to all Women United Initiative investors once it is able to launch.”**

**– Jerene Petersen, Chief Impact Officer, Mile High United Way**

## EMERGING NEEDS

The Emerging Needs funding supports an emerging need identified by Mile High United Way annually. This year, the funding has been allocated to the YMCA for their after-school program.

Out-of-school programming was upturned by the COVID-19 pandemic and the YMCA had to develop new and innovative ways to engage students and their parents. Although outreach to students was difficult, the YMCA connected with them around food security, realizing that many families relied on meals provided during the school day. A partnership with The GrowHaus offered a solution and food boxes were (and continue to be) delivered weekly. The YMCA also made sure families had school supplies throughout the remainder of the school year.

**Because of your investment, 369 students were provided with enriching out-of-school-time programs, and an overwhelming majority of those students continued to receive the food security support they needed.**

# THE KINDNESS PROJECT

The Kindness Project funds are allocated to community and volunteer events, including:



## MILE HIGH UNITED WAY CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PARTY

Because of you, 496 volunteers came together to serve over 400 families over the holidays.

**"This is definitely my favorite event of the year! I love joining with other Women United members and volunteers to make the holidays bright for children and families in our community."**

**– Kimberly Smith, American AgCredit, Women United Chair**

## WOMEN UNITED COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER

Over \$8,000 of diaper donations and other baby supplies were collected and distributed to six partner agencies serving women and girls in our community.

**"I am blown away by how much you've collected. These types of collection drives are so necessary right now and will make a huge difference for FloCrit teen moms and their kids."**

**– Theresa Garcia, Florence Crittenton Services**



## READ WITH ME

65 Women United volunteers visited elementary schools weekly or bi-weekly to read with their buddies.

## URBAN PEAK VALENTINE'S DAY BREAKFAST

15 Women United members served breakfast to teens experiencing homelessness on Valentine's Day.

## LUNCH & LEARNS

In 2019-2020, Women United hosted four Lunch & Learns focused on social issues affecting women and girls, including:

- Understanding Homelessness
- Domestic Violence
- Food Access
- Mental Health

**THANK YOU** for your investment in the Women United Initiative! You have changed the lives of women and girls in our community by helping to move them from poverty and crisis to economic success and security.

**To learn more or to invest in the Women United Initiative, please visit [unitedwaydenver.org/women-united](https://unitedwaydenver.org/women-united) or contact [womenunited@unitedwaydenver.org](mailto:womenunited@unitedwaydenver.org)**