



**United Way of
Williamson County**

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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United Way of Williamson County Invests \$520,000 in Community Impact Goals

ROUND ROCK (July 9, 2015) – In an effort to build a community where people thrive, live healthy lives and have the opportunity to achieve their full potential, United Way of Williamson County (UWWC) announces \$520,000 in Community Impact Grants to twenty-three (23) local nonprofits for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

Donations to UWWC's Community Impact Fund provides local organizations and programs with funding needed to advance UWWC's community impact goals related to education, income, health and basic needs. Funding decisions for community impact grants, as well as strategic programs are based on local United Way goals to stabilize families, help kids succeed and empower healthy lives for the people of Williamson County.

Community Impact Grants will account for roughly two-thirds of UWWC's community impact work in the coming fiscal year. In addition to investing in Williamson County through the grant process, United Way of Williamson County is funding programs such as financial education classes, free tax preparation services, early literacy and mentoring initiatives, and capacity-building programs for local nonprofits.

At the start of the application process, 43 grant proposals were submitted amounting to almost \$1.1 million in funding requests. Over the course of several months, community volunteers spent more than 700 hours reviewing grant applications, listening to agency presentations, and making decisions about the allocation of funds for the coming year.

"What is raised here stays in Williamson County to impact the lives of tens of thousands of people and make this a better place for all of us to live and work," said LeAnn Powers, Chief Professional Officer. "As a local, volunteer-driven organization, we believe that community members need to make funding decisions for their community. These dedicated volunteers review applications, determine funding priorities and ultimately make the decisions about how to invest in their community. It's a big job and a tremendous responsibility, and we are better because of their commitment."

This year's grant review committee was comprised of representatives of workplace campaigns, local experts in education, workforce or healthcare, and individuals who are knowledgeable about current and emerging needs across the county. All members of the committee either live in Williamson County or work for a Williamson County employer.

Community Impact Grants range in size from \$10,000 to \$40,000. These grants are made possible by donations to the Community Impact Fund pledged during the 2014-2015 United Way campaign.

Organizations receiving grants for the 2015-2016 funding cycle are:

AGE of Central Texas
Annunciation Maternity Home
Austin Dog Alliance (Hounds for Heroes)
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Texas
Boys and Girls Club of Georgetown
Breast Cancer Resource Center
Capital IDEA
Communities in Schools of Greater Central Texas
Drive a Senior
GENaustin
Hope Alliance
Interagency Support Council of East Williamson County, Inc.
Literacy Council of Williamson County
Meals on Wheels and More
Round Rock Area Serving Center
Round Rock ISD Partners in Education Foundation
Samaritan Center for Counseling and Pastoral Care
Samaritan Health Ministries
Shepherd's Heart Food Pantry
Smiles Foundation
STARRY
The Caring Place
Williamson-Burnet County Opportunities (Meals on Wheels)

About United Way of Williamson County: *United Way of Williamson County is a local volunteer driven, community-based, nonprofit organization committed to a community where people thrive, live healthy lives and have the opportunity to achieve their full potential. By uniting individuals and organizations, United Way of Williamson County is working to strengthen communities and improve lives by stabilizing families, helping kids succeed, and empowering healthy living. To learn more about the goals and mission of United Way of Williamson County visit www.unitedway-wc.org or call 512.255.6799.*

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