



MARCH NEWSLETTER 2023

Digital Version

United Ministries serves and empowers those on the transformative journey to self-sufficiency. Our vision is a community working together to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to thrive in Greenville.

Uniting for Change Luncheon 2023

[Click Here to Purchase Luncheon Tickets](#)

Our [Uniting for Change Luncheon](#) is right around the corner! **Ticket sales end on Friday, March 31**, so if you haven't purchased your seats yet, please click on the button above today.

For those of you who *have* reserved your spots, be on the lookout for an email in early April with details such as your table number.

“If we can somehow start to remove shame from struggle, if we can truly see people and care for them as our fellow human beings, we’ll start to see how many of us are also fighting in our own way.”

— Stephanie Land, author of *Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay and a Mother’s Will to Survive*

Our keynote speaker, author of the New York Times Bestseller ***Maid***, will be sharing her personal journey of life as a working single mother struggling to survive homelessness and navigate life on a low income and government assistance. Her memoir inspired the Netflix TV series ***Maid***, which was nominated for a Golden Globe Award.

It is our hope that this year's luncheon will not only shed light on the work currently being done to help alleviate homelessness, poverty and economic barriers, but also ignite enthusiasm for the work that is still to be done in our community.

The image shows the book cover for 'Maid' by Stephanie Land, which features a pair of yellow gloves and the title in a large, bold font. To the right is a promotional graphic for the 'Uniting for Change Luncheon' featuring a photo of Stephanie Land, the book cover, and the Netflix series 'Maid'. The text on the graphic identifies Stephanie Land as the keynote speaker and author of 'Maid', and mentions that the luncheon is benefiting United Ministries.

Ongoing Volunteer Opportunity in Housing

We have a wonderful offering for volunteers to help families in our **Emergency Shelter housing**.

We are seeking meals for a children's peer support

group being led by social workers and mental health counselors from Greenville County Schools.

Every Tuesday from 4:30-6:30 at the Front Porch Apartments, children ages 5-18 who are living our Emergency Shelter apartments will be invited to enjoy dinner and fellowship together. We currently have 15 children who will be participating. Meals may be home-cooked or store-bought, and should be dropped off between 4:00-4:15 pm. More details are available by clicking the button below.



[Sign Up for the Meal Train Here](#)

Volunteer Spotlight



This month, we are celebrating Louisa Koken. Louisa has been volunteering in the Administration building as a front desk receptionist for about 18 months. Always knowledgeable and friendly, she has provided valuable support to both participants and staff on a weekly basis.

A graduate of The University of Tennessee, Louisa spent over 32 years in the newspaper industry before retiring in 2012. She enjoys spending time with her husband and two daughters, as well as volunteering for other organizations such as Meals on Wheels, Triune Mercy, Girl Scouts, and more.

Louisa shares that, while she may not always be able to solve every problem for participants who reach out to her, she feels that she gives them hope by providing all the resources and programs available to them, helping to guide them in the right direction.

Louisa has made the decision to spend more time at her family's home in Lake Lure, NC, and will be saying goodbye to us at the end of March. She says that she is proud to have been a part of the United Ministries family. Thank you, Louisa, for your dedication and service to United Ministries! We will miss you and wish you all the best.

[Click here to learn more about volunteerism at United Ministries](#)

Participant Feedback

In an ongoing effort to respect the privacy and personal wishes of our participants, we have recently changed the way we share participant stories and updates. United Ministries has placed a "Letter Box" in all five program areas, providing participants the opportunity to share updates, thoughts, and other feedback on their experience with United Ministries. The cards allow participants to indicate if they'd like to remain anonymous or be contacted to share more of their story.

Two participants have shared these quotes so far:

"Thanks to Strive to Thrive, I'm living my best life!"

"I am learning how to [practice] self care, and love myself more and more each day."



Events



We are extremely honored to have received the **Max Heller Neighborhood Improvement Award** presented at the Greenville Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting!

The Max Heller Neighborhood Improvement Award is given annually to an organization or individual that has shown exemplary efforts toward neighborhood improvement and empowerment. The award is named in honor of former Greenville Mayor Max Heller, who spearheaded numerous efforts over the years to improve the quality of life for all citizens of Greenville County.

We are grateful for the community partners who join us as we serve and empower those on the transformative journey to self-sufficiency and who share in our vision of a community working together to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to thrive in Greenville.

March Donation Needs

WE ARE CURRENTLY IN NEED OF:

[Amazon Wish Lists](#)

Housing Program

laundry detergents
large children's diapers (size 4, 5 & 6)
cleaning products

Place of Hope Day Shelter

laundry detergent and Clorox
trial-size shampoos
reading glasses over 2.00+

Donations may be dropped off
M-F, 8:30-4:30 at 606 Pendleton Street.





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