



Rappahannock United Way
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – December 5, 2019
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***Rappahannock United Way Kicks Off Women United
With Keynote Speaker Jeannette Walls.***

Fredericksburg, VA (December 4, 2019) – Rappahannock United Way launched their new affinity group, Women United, with a business luncheon held at Gari Melchers Studio Pavilion. Hosted by Rappahannock United Way’s Women United Leadership Council (WULC) and attended by over 120 women, the WULC was honored to host Jeannette Walls as their keynote speaker. A celebrated author, Walls is best known for her #1 New York Times best-selling memoir, “The Glass Castle,” which details her life growing up in extreme poverty and the tale of her emergence from it. Named by Amazon as one of the top 10 books of the decade, her inspiring story was brought to the big screen in the 2017 major motion picture, *The Glass Castle*. Walls shared her unforgettable journey of overcoming unrelenting adversity and discussed how each person has the power to turn their greatest weakness into their greatest strength.

Jeannette’s story tied into Rappahannock United Way’s focus for Women United; women helping women overcome adversity and achieve success in the workplace. “Through intensive study United Way has identified possible barriers for women in our community who are Asset Limited, Income Constrained and Employed (ALICE). Top on the list of barriers are: childcare, transportation, work certification and stable housing. RUW’s Women United will help women overcome these barriers helping to create and maintain a strong and vibrant workforce, in the Fredericksburg Region.” -Ann Jones, Director of Resource Development, Rappahannock United Way

RUW Women United members are engaged leadership donors who are part of a larger global network of more than 70,000 women in 165 communities across six countries, all dedicated to improving lives and creating stronger communities. Worldwide, Women United has raised more than \$1.5 billion to solve local issues.

Founding members of the Rappahannock United Way Women’s Leadership Council include:

Sally Cooney Anderson
Jo Ellen Armstrong
Susan Coleman
Cathy Davis
Renee Gregory

Donna Krauss
Amanda Talbert
Beth Williams

This event was possible due to our generous event sponsors:

Central Rappahannock Regional Library
Mary Washington Healthcare
Germanna Community College
Rappahannock Area Community Services Board

To learn more about Rappahannock United Way Women United please visit:

<https://www.rappahannockunitedway.org/give/women-united/>

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For more information on Rappahannock United Way, please contact Brenda Sapanghila, Communications Coordinator at 540/373-0041 x 303 or by email at bsapanghila@rappahannockunitedway.org.