Mobilizing the caring power of women

Deepening leadership opportunities for young women in our Cass-Clay community

Energizing and inspiring women to make a difference
The mission of United Way of Cass-Clay is to connect people to people, needs to resources, and experts to advocates to improve lives and advance the common good throughout Cass and Clay Counties. United Way coordinates and invests in the 35 Under 35 Women’s Leadership Program to:

- MOBILIZE the caring power of women
- ENERGIZE & INSPIRE women to make a difference
- DEEPEN LEADERSHIP opportunities in the Cass-Clay community for young women

Six local women’s organizations, spearheaded by United Way of Cass-Clay, launched the first annual 35 Under 35 Women’s Leadership Program in 2009. It is now a collaborative effort led by the United Way of Cass-Clay team. Since 2009, 210 local women have participated in the leadership program.

The 7th annual program will begin in January 2015 and participants will meet monthly to focus on various issues pertinent to young leaders. Each session is led and presented by local leaders and includes training and discussion related to the themes listed below as well as goal-setting, communication, personal growth, board leadership, public speaking, conflict management, and several additional leadership topics.

Employers of United Way 35 Under 35 Women’s Leadership Program participants benefit greatly from the experience. Participants will:

- Connect with a diverse network of dynamic young women and local leaders
- Expand knowledge of the community and opportunities to serve in leadership positions
- Are energized, motivated and equipped to sharpen their skill set
- Gain confidence and skills to lead in current and future positions at their companies/organizations

Participants in the program represent various industries throughout our community including businesses, non-profits, higher education, health, technology, and other sectors. Each year, volunteers aspire to select a group of dynamic and diverse women to experience the leadership program.

Any woman living or working in Cass or Clay Counties age 35 and under is welcome to apply for the 2015 program. Deadline to apply is October 17, 2014.

Selected participants commit to a $500 tuition cost. Some employers sponsor their employees to participate in this program as a professional development opportunity.

Thanks to United Way’s partnership with organizations in our community, a limited number of scholarships are available upon request. Additional scholarship information is available on the application.

Applications will be available at UnitedWayCassClay.org on September 3, 2014.
The mission of United Way of Cass-Clay is to connect people to people, needs to resources, and experts to advocates to improve lives and advance the common good throughout Cass and Clay Counties.

United Way coordinates and invests in the 35 Under 35 Women’s Leadership Program to:

• MOBILIZE the caring power of women
• ENERGIZE & INSPIRE women to make a difference
• DEEPEN LEADERSHIP opportunities in the Cass-Clay community for young women

2014 UNITED WAY 35 UNDER 35 WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Erin Ahneman, MedSynergies, Inc.
Amy Anderson, Essentia Health
Vanessa Anderson, Vogel Law
Kali Anderson, Braun Intertec
Liz Anderson, Hornbacher’s
Ashley Bakkegard, Lake Agassiz Certified Development Company
Courtney Barstad, North Dakota State University
Kendra Binger, Alzheimer’s Association
Christy Brabandt, Scheels
Betsy Christianson, Titan Machinery, Inc
Jennifer Dietz, Xerox
Jess Engel, U.S. Bank
Natalie Ganske, Wells Fargo
Hailey Goplen, North Dakota State University
Lisa Graalum, Rebuilding Together
Kris Grover, West Fargo Public Schools
Mikaela Hansen, Swanson Health Products
Angela Hasbrouck, Family Wellness
Danel Jung, Microsoft
Kelly Krause, Tecton Products
Nikki Kressin, First International Bank & Trust
Ashley Kringle, John Deere Electronic Solutions
Shannon Luney, Todaymade
Alissa Maier, Discovery Benefits, Inc.
Joni Medenwald, The Village Family Service Center
Lindsey Ohren, Southeastern North Dakota Community Action Agency
April Olson Mata, Goldmark Property Management
Angie Ryan, Network Center, Inc.
Carrie Snyder, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
Taya Spelhaug, North Dakota State College of Science
Jessica Staehr, BW Insurance Agency
Chelsey Steinlicht, Bright Futures Learning Center
Kaylyn Stroh, FMWF Chamber of Commerce
Michelle Warren, Michelle Warren Photography/ Harlynn’s Heart
Adrienne White, Fargo-Moorhead Convention & Visitors Bureau

VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Although the 35 Under 35 program is coordinated by the United Way of Cass-Clay team, United Way engages program alumni to volunteer and play a leadership role in coordinating the application and interview process and session program details. In 2014, 68 alumni volunteered to help lead and coordinate the program.

Each spring, United Way of Cass-Clay teams up with Prairie Public Broadcasting and the Fargo Park District to coordinate the annual Share A Story Family Event at Rheault Farm in Fargo to promote reading, literacy, and early education. Each year, thousands of children and families enjoy stories, activities, the opportunity to meet some of their favorite book characters, and a free book to take home. Last year a team of 57 participants and alumni from the 35 Under 35 Women’s Leadership Program volunteered for this community event.

The 2015 United Way 35 Under 35 Women’s Leadership Program is supported by:
According to Marianne Williamson, “Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. As we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.”

Thanks, United Way, for providing an environment where all volunteers, speakers, and participants were able to let their light shine. This experience has profoundly impacted me and I’m grateful to my employer for supporting my participation in this program.

-April Olson Mata, Goldmark Property Management, 2014 Participant

Throughout my professional career I have been looking for a leader. That leader is me. This program gave me the confidence to know that whatever our scope of influence, we ALL have the opportunity to make a lasting impact, both personally and professionally, on our friends, loved ones, coworkers and community.

Through connecting with a group of like-minded women, I have made some lifelong friends and colleagues that will continue to challenge me along my journey.

-Liz Anderson, Hornbacher’s, 2014 Participant

Not every leader has the same background, talents, or goals.

By helping young women in our community realize their own individual skills and passions in life, the program helps those young women discover how they can best serve in leadership roles in the present and future.

-Vanessa Anderson, Vogel Law Firm, 2014 Participant

For more information:

To learn more about United Way of Cass-Clay:
- Text “UNITEDWAYFARGO” to 22828
- Visit UnitedWayCassClay.org to read more and sign up to receive our newsletter
- Contact our team:
  Kristi Huber
  United Way Resource Development Director
  khuber@unitedwaycassclay.org   701.237.5050

  Tiffany McShane
  United Way Resource Development Project Manager
  tmcshane@unitedwaycassclay.org   701.237.5050

To request an application email Tiffany McShane or visit UnitedWayCassClay.org. Applications will be available September 3, 2014.