

# NEWS RELEASE



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## **United Way Rising Leaders Ready to Serve Local Nonprofits** *Free Program Prepares Next Generation of Board Members and Community Volunteers*

HENDERSONVILLE, NC, MARCH 13, 2017 – After eight months of education and community service, 20 members of United Way of Henderson County’s sixth annual Rising Leaders Program have graduated and are better prepared to start making a difference as volunteers with Henderson County nonprofit organizations.

Launched in 2011, the Rising Leaders Program is sponsored by Friday Staffing and Lenoir-Rhyne University. United Way of Henderson County (UWHC) created the free program as a direct response to the need for a new generation of board members and key volunteers at Henderson County nonprofit agencies.

Rising Leaders participants are volunteers and professionals representing a wide variety of Henderson County businesses and organizations. They receive training in the knowledge and skills for board service, community needs, principles of governance and management of a non-profit, rights and responsibilities of board members, best practices of financial and legal leadership, basics of fundraising, and the power of advocacy. Participants also completed a community service project and attended a nonprofit board meeting as part of the program.

The 2016-17 Rising Leaders class graduated on March 9<sup>th</sup> and then enjoyed a quick “Speed Dating” session with representatives of local nonprofit agencies looking to recruit potential board members and volunteers.

New members are currently being recruited for the next Rising Leaders program that will begin in the fall. UWHC will be accepting applications for the 2017-2018 Rising Leaders Program beginning May 1. Application materials will be available at an informational event beginning at 5:30 p.m. that evening at Dandelion (127 5th Ave W, off Main Street). Anyone is welcome to attend this free event; please email Kristen Freeman at [RL@liveunitedhc.org](mailto:RL@liveunitedhc.org) to RSVP or for more information. After May 1, application materials will also be available on the UWHC website, [www.liveunitedhc.org](http://www.liveunitedhc.org).

The 2016-2017 Rising Leaders Program graduates are:

Bonnie Black  
Tish Blair  
Heather Boyd

Jessica Collins  
Emily Freeman  
Alesia Griesmyer  
Tyfani Griffis  
Jill Hart  
Serena Igharas  
Keith Johnson  
Sara Landry  
Donecia Santana  
Katherine Schuen  
Christine Singleton  
Sam Singleton  
Luke Small  
Ellen Stallings  
Caitlin Stepp  
Dawn Temple  
Jan Witte

*About United Way of Henderson County*

*United Way is advancing the common good by creating opportunities for a better life in Henderson County. If you would like more information or would like to make a donation, contact United Way of Henderson County at PO Box 487, Hendersonville, NC 28793, 828-692-1636, or visit online at [liveunitedhc.org](http://liveunitedhc.org). You can also find UWHC on Facebook.*

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