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Women United in Philanthropy Awards \$40,000 to Local Non-Profits

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA – On October 4, 2011, *Women United in Philanthropy* awarded two \$20,000 grants to non-profits dedicated to helping women and children in the Charlottesville/Albemarle community. The recipients of the **Women United in Philanthropy 2011 Human Services Grant Awards** are the *International Rescue Committee* and *Piedmont CASA*.

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) will use their \$20,000 grant to start a Refugee Women’s Craft Cooperative. The IRC has been helping refugees resettle in the Charlottesville community since 1998. These refugees are mostly women who come here to escape persecution and often are illiterate or have linguistic barriers to overcome. The Craft Cooperative will give these women the opportunity to use their existing artisan skills to bring much-needed income into their families. The IRC will also teach them basic business practices so they can take ownership of their lives.

Piedmont Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) work one-on-one with abused and endangered children to assist the courts in determining the best environment to ensure each child’s safety and well-being. Last year there were 1,258 child abuse and neglect referrals to the departments of social services in Charlottesville and Albemarle County. The \$20,000 WUP grant will be used to train and supervise new CASA volunteers who will serve the children in our community who enter the child welfare system every day.

Since its first Human Services Grant Award in 2006, *Women United in Philanthropy* (WUP) has awarded \$197,825 in grants to local organizations serving women and children in the Charlottesville/Albemarle community. The WUP mission is to maximize women’s leadership in philanthropy by engaging and educating its membership, increasing charitable contributions, and strengthening the community through the impact of collective giving to support human services.

To learn more about WUP and its efforts to help women and children in our community, come to Maya Restaurant on November 2, 2011, from 5 to 7 pm for the annual WUP Membership Event. Visit www.WomenUnitedCharlottesville.info for more details.

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