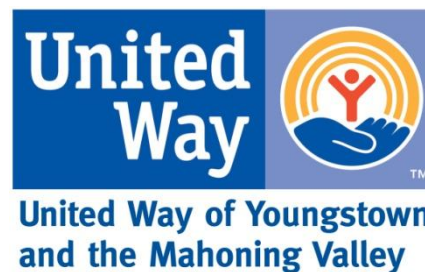


Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 13, 2011



For more information contact:

Ginny Pasha

Director of Community Impact

United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley

255 Watt Street

Youngstown, OH 44505

Phone: 330.746.8494

Fax: 330.746.4525

Email: gpasha@ymvunitedway.org

Website: www.ymvunitedway.org

United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley Changes Its Funding Process

The United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley is announcing significant changes to its funding process. Beginning today, United Way will open its funding process to any non-profit organization delivering health and human services in Mahoning County. In addition to the open funding process, the United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley will follow the lead of United Way Worldwide and direct its focus to the impact areas of Education, Income, and Health.

“This is a huge shift in the way our United Way reinvests funds into the community”, said Bob Hannon, President, United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley. “Panels have been working since February to identify key focus areas within each of these 3 impact areas. This is an exciting, but challenging time for our United Way and we look forward to receiving program proposals that will help move the needle in Mahoning County in the areas of Education, Income, and Health.”

“This Impact Model will move our United Way closer to achieving its mission of sustained improvement in the lives of Mahoning Valley residents by bringing together the community to create measurable and enduring changes in the areas of education, income, and health,” said Brian Kolenich, Executive Director of Park Vista Retirement Community and the United Way Community Impact Chairperson. “It has been exciting to work with the United Way team on developing the Impact model for Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley. It is a strategic shift and one that will create opportunities for collaboration. The United Way senior leadership and about two dozen area volunteer experts in the areas of education, income, and health worked over the winter and spring to produce comprehensive focus areas that will address our Valley’s specific issues, with the hope to achieve measurable and long-lasting results that improve the lives of those in need.”

“The shift to Impact is a great opportunity for United Way and other community partners to align the on-going work of the Community Health Assessment Plan with United Way funding priorities for the benefit of our community,” said Matt Stefanak, Mahoning County Health Commissioner and Chairman of the Health Impact panel.

Non-profit organizations who wish to apply for funding through United Way should visit www.ymvunitedway.org for planning documents that outline the focus areas and strategies. Agencies who wish to apply must submit a Letter of Interest, which can also be found on the United Way website, and meet the following eligibility guidelines and have available for review:

- By-laws
- Affirmative action policy/non-discrimination policies
- Directors and Officers Insurance
- Liability Insurance
- Board approved fiscal policies and procedures
- Board approved personnel policies and procedures handbook
- Articles of Incorporation

In addition, organizations must be able to document that the agency:

- Is governed by a voluntary board of directors consisting of members from the general community.
- Has at least one full-time exempt staff person.
- Has been in business for at least 2 years.
- Is committing some of its own resources to the program.
- Has an outcome measurement system.
- Will conduct a workplace campaign to benefit United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley.

Letters of Interest on the required form must be received at the United Way office by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, August 19, 2011. Anyone interested in receiving more information on the requirements and process can attend a one hour information session on Monday, August 1, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. in the large conference room at the Main Branch of the Public Library. For more information, please call 330.746.8494.

ABOUT THE UNITED WAY OF YOUNGSTOWN AND THE MAHONING VALLEY

The United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley seeks to be the driving force behind sustained improvement in the lives of all our citizens through initiatives that promote education, income and health. Currently twenty seven nonprofit agencies are partners with the United Way of the Youngstown and Mahoning Valley and through that partnership; the United Way distributes funds for over seventy programs that the partnering agencies oversee. In addition to funding our agencies we have created several initiatives that are having a positive impact on the community.

###