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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **United Way Tops \$3 million for Second Straight Year**

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(Youngstown, OH) - The United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley announced today that thanks to the generosity of its supporters, the 2017 annual campaign raised \$3,143,522 for the community, exceeding the \$2.9 million goal. Our United Way's impact work, which focuses on early education initiatives such as Success After 6 and Success By 6, drives the growth in our campaign.

"Our United Way is dedicated to breaking down the barriers students and families face in our community. We want them to have the resources they need to succeed, and we cannot do that alone. We rely on our donors as well as our volunteers and partner agencies," said Bob Hannon, President of the United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley, "We are extremely grateful to our donors who place their trust in us to do this important work. Thank you for joining our fight to improve the lives of our neighbors in need."

The United Way announced its 2017 campaign results at Girard's Prospect Elementary School, one of seven Success After 6 sites. They were joined by kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade students from the after-school program as well as teachers and volunteers who work with the children on improving their literacy.

Success After 6 is an early childhood initiative that focuses on the whole child and whole family. It provides wraparound services, including an after-school program, to students in Girard, Youngstown City Schools, Youngstown Community School, and most recently Liberty Schools. This initiative is a main reason for our growth, as four major donors made significant gifts to "Adopt-A-School" this campaign.

We want to thank Chris and Ed Muransky for adopting Youngstown Community School, Gloria Jones and Fireline Inc for adopting Martin Luther King Elementary School in honor of the late Roger Jones, Huntington Bank for adopting McGuffey Elementary School, Denise Debartolo-York and the Debartolo Corporation for adopting Williamson Elementary School, and Ronald McDonald House Charities along with an anonymous donor for adopting Taft Elementary School, and Ronald McDonald House Charities for adopting Girard Prospect Elementary School.

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Our work in these Success After 6 schools is allowing us to engage our donors in new ways. They are volunteering their time to tutor children, be mentors, and help with projects such as vision screening in which we screened 2,000 students in Youngstown, helping more than 200 of them to get glasses and the proper eye care.

"By turning our donors into volunteers and our volunteers into donors, we are able to raise the funds necessary to provide these initiatives and programs." said Hannon. "We also fund 44 programs run by 31 non-profit agencies that do work in education and emergency services. These agencies are valuable partners and continue to impact our Valley in significant ways."

Garry Mrozek, CEO of Hometown Pharmacy Solutions, served as the 2017 Campaign Chair. Mrozek also serves as our Board Chair.

"It has been my pleasure to have personally been involved with the United Way for over 30 years. Our success is a tribute to the tremendous United Way staff, all volunteers and our many generous contributors who make this campaign possible." said Mrozek.

As a long time United Way volunteer and board member, he was instrumental in helping us break the \$3 million mark for the second year.

"The United Way continues to create positive change by collaborating with partners to focus on the caring power of the people in our Valley." said Mrozek, "We are proud that our community pledged at a record level to surpass the campaign goal."

Our United Way also funds Success By 6, a pre-kindergarten readiness program that helps students prepare for their first time in a classroom, and Imagination Library, a free book program for children under the age of 5 in Mahoning County that also helps parents with literacy techniques. We plan to grow the Success After 6 initiative so it can impact even more children and families.

####PLEASE SEE ATTACHED 2017 CAMPAIGN BREAKDOWN####

## 2017 Campaign Break Down

### Top Workplace Campaigns:

- Dearing Compressor and Pump
- General Motors Lordstown Complex and UAW #1112 & #1714
- AT&T
- Youngstown State University
- Compco Industries
- Home Savings Bank
- UPS
- AIM Transportation Solutions
- Altronic, LLC
- The Surgical Hospital at Southwoods

### Top foundation gifts:

- Frank & Pearl Gelbman Charitable Foundation
- Home Savings Charitable Foundation
- The Youngstown Foundation
- Walter & Helen Bender Memorial Fund
- General Motors Foundation

### New foundation gifts:

- Amazon Smile
- Dentaquest
- Flo Navarro Foundation
- Nordson Foundation
- Ronald McDonald House Charities
- The James and Coralie Centofanti Charitable Foundation
- John D. Beeghly Fund
- YSU Pay it Forward

New Workplace campaigns:

- Aqua Ohio
- Palmer-Donavin
- Equitas Health
- Pennex Aluminum Company
- Dinesol Plastics
- Compco Quaker Manufacturing
- Firestone Laser and Manufacturing