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PRESS RELEASE

Success After 6 Receives Support from Thomases Family Endowment

July 9, 2018 (Youngstown, OH) - Representatives from the Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Foundation presented the United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley with \$15,000. This funding will support the expansion of United Way's education initiative, Success After 6, in the Youngstown City School District. Success After 6 provides wraparound services and academic support to children and families in need.

"It is with great pleasure that the Thomases Family Endowment of The Youngstown Area Jewish Federation has the opportunity to participate in such a worthwhile cause such as United Way's Success After 6 program." said Andi Baroff, Thomases Family Endowment Committee Member and Irwin Thomases' stepdaughter. "Helping children learn and gain confidence while enjoying what they're doing would put a smile on Irwin's face."

The Thomases Family Endowment was established in 2011 after the passing of Irwin Thomases. Thomases wanted to make sure the local Jewish community thrived, while simultaneously supporting economic development, social, health, education, and arts related programs to help the community as a whole progress. The endowment has distributed millions of dollars to organizations throughout the Mahoning Valley.

"My father, Irwin Thomases, believed strongly in the power of education, and he fostered a love of learning in me." said Martha Thomases, Irwin Thomases' daughter, "He would be very proud to be part of the Success After 6 program. Thank you for this opportunity."

Success After 6 is growing from 8 schools last school year to 12 in the Valley for the upcoming 2018-2019 school year. The education initiative will serve 800 students through an afterschool program, and provide hundreds of other students in the 5 school districts with important wraparound and academic services. In addition to the support from the Thomases Endowment, the Jewish Community Center of Youngstown is a Success After 6 partner agency providing programming to the afterschool students as well as opportunities to learn tennis and attend Camp JCC this summer.

"The Thomases Family Endowment has been a supporter of Success After 6 since we launched the program in 2015, and we are thankful they continue to believe strongly in the work we are doing through this initiative," said Bob Hannon, President of the United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley. "Our United Way cannot do this work alone. We need community partners like the Thomases and the Jewish Community Center to be able to provide this support and these services to more students and families in the Valley."

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Success After 6 will be offered at 8 schools in the Youngstown City Schools District - Williamson, MLK, McGuffey, Bunn, Taft, Kirkmere, Volney, and Wilson. It will also be offered in four other schools include - Youngstown Community School, Girard Prospect Elementary School, Liberty E.J. Blott Elementary, and Campbell Elementary school.

SEE ATTACHED PICTURE.



Pictured above:

Front - Stacia Erdos, United Way of Youngstown, Andi Baroff, Myra Benedikt, Jeanne Fibus, Lisa Long, and Andy Lipkin representing the Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation.

Back - Amy Klingensmith, Tina Chance, and Anne Rosenkranz representing the United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley.