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**United Way
of Greater Stark County**

United Way of Greater Stark County's Young Leaders Society Invites the Community to Inspire Local High School Students with College Aspirations

(Canton, OH) October 24, 2017 – United Way of Greater Stark County's Young Leaders Society (YLS) and community sponsors are teaming up for the third annual Hoodies for the Holidays! The affinity group plans to collect over 150 hooded sweatshirts to donate to local students with college aspirations. This year, juniors and seniors at the following schools will be the recipients of the Hoodies initiative: Alliance High School, Canton Harbor High School, CHOICES, Early College and Sandy Valley High School.

"As students plan or discuss their future beyond high school, many dream of attending college," says Jenifer Hill, YLS Hoodies for the Holiday Committee Chair. "Whether they are the first in their family to attend college or one of many - they all have one thing in common, they need support! With the hoodie of their choice, a personalized letter from an alumnus and an admissions packet - we are showing students that we support their dream of educational advancement!"

The community is invited to participate in this exciting opportunity by being a sponsor or donating. It's a great way to show school pride and provide encouragement to local high school students at the same time. Monetary donations and hoodies are needed to ensure fulfillment of student requests. With help from community supporters, Young Leaders Society provides students at local participating high schools with alumni letters, admissions packets and hoodies from the colleges of their choice. "Words cannot describe how grateful I am to have received my NYU hoodie from you! It's so nice to have someone to back up and support our future life decisions. Thanks again, it means so much to me!" - Haley

There are many ways to donate or participate this season with Hoodies for the Holidays. If you are an individual wishing to **provide a monetary gift, simply text PURCHASE to 41444** to make a credit card donation from your mobile phone. If you are a business or organization interested in **sponsorship**, visit www.uwstark.org/hoodies-holidays for a sponsorship form. **New collegiate hooded sweatshirts can be dropped off** at United Way of Greater Stark County's offices in downtown Canton.

Attending a local fundraising event is a fun, easy way to help:

Thursday, 11/2 5:00 PM-8:00 PM George's Lounge - 229 Cleveland Avenue NW, Canton, OH 44702
YLS current, future and past chairs will be behind the bar serving customers, and a portion of all bar sales that night will go to the Hoodies project.

Tuesday, 11/7 11:00 AM-10:00 PM Taggart's Ice Cream Parlor - 107 S. Main St., Magnolia, OH 44643
10% of all proceeds will be donated to the Hoodies project.

Monday, 11/27 5:00 PM-9:00 PM Chipotle Mexican Grill - 1630 West State St., Alliance, OH 44601
50% of each bill will be donated to Hoodies when United Way of Greater Stark County's YLS is mentioned.

United Way of Greater Stark County extends special thanks to all the generous Hoodies for the Holidays program sponsors and in-kind donations. Without them, this project would not be possible. Thank you to Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce, Malone University, The Canton Student Loan Foundation, The Karcher Group, Winick Endodontics, ACC Home Realty, LLC, Stewardship Property Solutions, Canton South Dental Group, Mary Hakaim ACC Home Realty, Schauer Group and Liquid Apparel. A special shout out to all the fundraising event locations as well!

About United Way of Greater Stark County's Young Leaders Society

United Way of Greater Stark County's Young Leaders are generous and dedicated supporters, age 45 or under, who share a commitment to improve Greater Stark County communities. YLS members focus on community service projects and coordinate signature projects annually. Text **STARKYLS to 51555** to join from your mobile phone. For additional information regarding Hoodies for the Holidays and United Way's Young Leaders Society, Contact Carrie Clemens at 330-491-9974, email carrie.clemens@uwstark.org or visit www.uwstark.org/young-leaders-society.

About United Way of Greater Stark County

United Way of Greater Stark County FIGHTS for the Health, Education and Financial Stability of every person in every community. We are more than fundraisers. The agency collaborates, convenes, and partners to support programs and initiatives that break the cycle of poverty, promote a healthy community where children are successful from kindergarten through graduation to a career, and where families have the tools, skills, and support they need to become financially independent. We win by living United. Visit www.uwstark.org for more information about United Way of Greater Stark County. Offices are at 401 Market Avenue North, Suite 300, Canton, Ohio 44702. (330) 491-0445.

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