

NEWS RELEASE

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United Way
of Greater Stark County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

United Way of Greater Stark County's Young Leaders Society Invites Local Entrepreneurs to STARK SOUP

(Canton, OH) August 16, 2017 – United Way's Young Leaders Society (YLS) will host the final of three events in the 2017 STARK SOUP series on **Sunday, October 8 at 6 pm at The YWCA of Canton**. Proceeds from the event PLUS a \$1,000 matching grant will go home with the winner. The STARK SOUP series is a micro-grant program that supports Stark County community projects focused on HEALTH, EDUCATION and FINANCIAL STABILITY - the impact areas of United Way of Greater Stark County's BOLD GOALS. Bold Goals are United Way's essential building blocks for a better quality of life.

STARK SOUP offers a supportive space for creative people and a relational hub where people can connect. The rest is up to the attendees, but wonderful things can happen when people come together and SOUP stories are evidence of that. STARK SOUP is a community dinner that exists to take the innovative ideas from remarkable individuals and organizations in our community and put life to them. Anyone with an idea to submit can visit www.uwstark.org/StarkSOUP to apply quickly and easily. Deadline for submitting ideas is September 7th at noon. Visit <http://www.nctvstorytellers.org/stark-soup.html> to watch videos of previous STARK SOUP events and get a better idea of the format and style of this unique program.

In 2016, SOUP events funded \$4,130 into community projects and YLS matched \$3,000. At the April 23, 2017 STARK SOUP event, \$1,440 - plus the \$1,000 matching grant - was awarded to Stephen Dages for his "Mount Mentors" program. This collaboration with Pathway Caring for Children connects a group of foster youth with University of Mount Union student mentors every other week during the school year.

General admission tickets to the upcoming October 8 dinner are \$10 and include soup, salad, bread and a chance to vote for one of the four presented project proposals. Each speaker will have four minutes to talk about their project idea, how it will advance United Way of Greater Stark County's BOLD GOALS and answer four questions from the audience members. At the event, attendees eat, talk and network then vote on the project that they believe benefits Stark County the most. At the end of the night, the spoon ballots are counted and the winner goes home with all the money raised PLUS a \$1,000 matching grant from United Way's Young Leaders Society. For a chance to mingle and have a say, purchase tickets after September 11th at www.uwstark.org/StarkSOUP.

UWGSC extends special thanks to STARK SOUP program sponsors Deli Ohio and Jab Advertising, as well as those who support the event with in-kind donations: SOL Pie Pizza, YWCA of Canton and A Studio. Without them, STARK SOUP would not be possible. All supporters are recognized online at www.uwstark.org/StarkSoup. For additional information regarding STARK SOUP and Young Leaders Society, please contact Kimberly Douce at 330-491-9985 or email kimberly.douce@uwstark.org.

About United Way

United Way of Greater Stark County believes in creating long-lasting change in the three important impact areas of Health, Education and Financial Stability. 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. For more information about United Way of Greater Stark County visit www.uwstark.org. Headquarters are at 401 Market Avenue North, Suite 300, Canton, Ohio 44702. (330) 491-0445.

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