

NEWS RELEASE

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**United Way  
of Greater Stark County**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**United Way of Greater Stark County Launching Annual Giving Campaign with Stone Soup Event**

(Canton, OH) August 29, 2017 – On September 8, 2017, United Way of Greater Stark County (UWGSC) will begin their annual fundraiser campaign with the countywide **STONE SOUP** volunteer project. The children’s story of STONE SOUP is the premise for UWGSC’s September volunteer project, where people will come together, each bringing an ingredient for a meal. Enough pre-made meals will be made to feed hundreds in our community through homeless shelters, transitional housing and hot meal sites. More than 12% of the Stark County population lives in poverty and this is just one of the many ways people can get involved and help local men, women and children. Over 450 volunteers participated in last year’s event, preparing over 2,300 meals.

Money raised during the annual campaign (September 8 – December 7) supports local programs in Stark County that focus on the BOLD GOALS of HEALTH, EDUCATION and FINANCIAL STABILITY. BOLD GOALS are United Way’s essential building blocks for creating a better quality of life.

“STONE SOUP is the perfect demonstration of what UWGSC does every day by bringing together donors, community leaders, government entities, educational institutions, non-profit agencies and workplaces,” says Maria Heege, UWGSC President and CEO. “When our community partners work together towards common goals, we can make a real difference to improve lives.”

The STONE SOUP volunteer event targets issues surrounding the physical and behavioral health of the community. Visit [www.uwstark.org/stonesoup](http://www.uwstark.org/stonesoup) to learn more. “We currently have 16 assembly sites lined up and almost 400 volunteers participating.” said Daniel Jenkins, Volunteer Engagement Coordinator. “This is a great opportunity for people to celebrate the generosity of our community and help feed our friends and neighbors in need.” For additional information, call 330-491-9953 or email [daniel.jenkins@uwstark.org](mailto:daniel.jenkins@uwstark.org).

**About United Way**

United Way of Greater Stark County fights for the Health, Education and Financial Stability of every person in every community. 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](http://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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