

NEWS RELEASE

For more information:  
Cynthia Vignos  
United Way of Greater Stark County  
Vice President, Marketing and Strategic Communication  
Office: 330-491-9954  
[cynthia.vignos@uwstark.org](mailto:cynthia.vignos@uwstark.org)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**United Way of Greater Stark County Stone Soup Event Provides Meals for Over 2,200 People**

(Canton, OH) September 13, 2017 – United Way of Greater Stark County (UWGSC) launched their annual fundraising campaign on Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup> with the countywide **STONE SOUP** project. 356 volunteers created pre-made meals to feed over 2,200 hungry men, women and children our community through homeless shelters, transitional housing and hot meal sites. 246 snack bags were also prepared.

The children’s story of STONE SOUP is the premise for this volunteer activity where people came together, each bringing an ingredient for a meal. Local workplaces participating were: Alliance Petroleum Corporation, Aultman Health Foundation, Beaver Excavating Company, Checkpoint Systems, City of Massillon, Consumers National Bank, Courtyard Marriott of Canton, Fifth Third Bank, Gervasi Vineyard, PolyOne Corporation, Rice’s Landscapes, R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, The Timken Company, TimkenSteel and Williams. Members of United Way of Greater Stark County’s Board of Directors also participated. Pictures from the various assembly sites are posted on UWGSC’s Facebook page.

Lasagna, baked spaghetti, macaroni & cheese and chicken tortilla soup were distributed to: Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter, Domestic Violence Project Initiative (DVPI) of Canton and Massillon, Refuge of Hope, Salvation Army of Massillon, Total Living Center, Turnaround Community Outreach and YWCA of Canton.

“More than 12% of the Stark County population lives in poverty and 26% more struggle to make ends meet. This is just one of the many ways people can get involved and help local men, women and children.” says Maria Heege, UWGSC President and CEO. “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.”

UWGSC’s annual campaign runs until December 7<sup>th</sup> – although tax-deductible donations are accepted year-round. To learn more about future volunteer opportunities, visit [www.uwstark.org/volunteer](http://www.uwstark.org/volunteer) or contact Daniel Jenkins, Volunteer Engagement Coordinator at 330-491-9953 or [daniel.jenkins@uwstark.org](mailto:daniel.jenkins@uwstark.org).

**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. 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.

###