

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**United Way**  
of Greater Stark County

### **United Way of Greater Stark County Launches New Volunteer Resource Center Online Platform**

*(Canton, OH) December 5, 2017* – Just in time for the holidays, United Way of Greater Stark County's Volunteer Resource Center (VRC) has transitioned to a new online platform. The VRC is easier to navigate, and connects individuals and families looking for an opportunity to help out with organizations in need of their time and talent. VRC users can set specific parameters in their searches to find volunteer opportunities that align to their interests and availability.

The new platform from HandsOn Connect® provides a more streamlined experience organizations posting volunteer opportunities, as well as for individuals seeking them out. The transition involved migrating all previous listings and accounts associated with the former VRC to a new platform aimed at better serving the Stark County community. Prior registrants who previously utilized the VRC website can reset their password via the login tab to access the platform. An account can also be created using a Facebook login information.

Some current volunteer opportunities include working with animals, providing pastoral care, monitoring local youth or stocking a food pantry. There are also listings for those who want to serve meals or perform maintenance, to more specialized professional skill sets such as health care, counseling or serving on a non-profit board. Families are always encouraged to participate as well.

Organizations are now able to generate reports on specific volunteer opportunities, manage requirements for volunteers to participate in activities and create volunteer events that require filling multiple positions. They can also easily reach out to previous volunteers to inform them of future opportunities. Individuals can track their volunteer hours for requirements such as National Honor Society hours for high school students or court-ordered community service for offenders.

"The new and improved VRC website supports our work in our community, and the timing is ideal," explains UWGSC CEO and President Maria Heege. "With so many people celebrating holidays this time of year, we receive a lot of requests from people wanting to help their neighbors. The new VRC platform makes it easier to connect people with organizations that can benefit from their time and talent."

"We are incredibly excited about the transition of the Volunteer Resource Center website," said Daniel Jenkins, Marketing and Volunteer Engagement Coordinator. "I'm eager to explore the capabilities of the improved VRC with all of our community partners. We have listings to fit every type of passion and capability."

To make a difference in your community this holiday season or throughout the year, visit [uwstark.org/volunteer](http://uwstark.org/volunteer) and browse through the numerous opportunities available at the VRC website. For more information on volunteering or for assistance navigating the VRC, contact Daniel Jenkins at [daniel.jenkins@uwstark.org](mailto:daniel.jenkins@uwstark.org) or 330.491.9953.

**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.

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