

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

United Way's Financial Prosperity Center Celebrates One Year Anniversary with Open House

(Canton, OH – February 15, 2018) United Way of Greater Stark County will celebrate the 1-year anniversary of its Financial Prosperity Center on Wednesday, March 14, 2018 from 12:00-3:00 PM. Developed to help local residents become financially stable, United Way of Greater Stark County's Financial Prosperity Center at OhioMeansJobs offers a variety of services tailored to meet the unique needs of each individual client. The focus is on 3 primary areas: employment counseling and placement, financial education and coaching, and public benefits access.

The public is invited to attend the event. Guests may tour the center, which is housed within the existing OhioMeansJobs facility at 822 30th Street NW in Canton. Information will be available about the many services offered free of charge, such as: assistance with benefit applications (SNAP, TANF, FAFSA, Medicare and Medicaid, voter registration), VITA free income tax preparation, financial counseling and coaching, financial education classes and workshops, workforce and employment services (new employment coaching, career readiness classes, job search assistance, clothing vouchers, employment training). Staff will be available to answer questions. There will be giveaways, and guests may enter a raffle for a prize basket.

"We're excited to celebrate the 1-year anniversary of this innovative project," says Maria Heege, UWGSC President and CEO. "The Financial Prosperity Center at OhioMeansJobs aligns with United Way's Financial Stability BOLD GOALS, and we're seeing more and more people coming in to take advantage of the numerous services offered."

United Way of Greater Stark County envisions a community where a cycle for financial success exists, allowing individuals and families access to build long-term, economic independence. United Way of Greater Stark County's Financial Prosperity Center at OhioMeansJobs is one of many financial stability initiatives programs and services developed to provide local residents with pathways out of poverty that are realistic and sustainable.

"Housing the Financial Prosperity Center within the OhioMeansJobs facility is an ideal collaboration," says FPC Manager Chrisann Leaman. "The Financial Prosperity Center complements the services available at the OhioMeansJobs Stark County Center, and vice-versa. The financial and employment programs offered through the Prosperity Center provide job seekers - and employed individuals - with powerful tools to improve their families' financial situation."

More information is available at <http://www.uwstark.org/financial-prosperity-center> or (330)491-2620. This project was made possible through funding from: The Sterling Foundation, Westfield Bank, Huntington Bank, PNC Bank, The Deuble Foundation, Internal Revenue Service and Ohio Association of Food Banks.

About United Way

United Way of Greater Stark County improves the quality of lives through long-lasting local community change, supporting programs in education, income and health. The agency collaborates, convenes, and partners to support programs and initiatives that promote a healthy community where children are successful from kindergarten through graduation to a career, break the cycle of poverty so families have the tools, skills, and support they need to become financially independent and access to programs & services that improve the overall health of Stark County. 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. Dial (330) 491-0445 to reach the offices.

About OhioMeansJobs

The **mission** of the **Stark Tuscarawas Workforce Development Board** is to assist area businesses in meeting their workforce needs by coordinating the workforce development activities of the numerous employment, education, and economic development entities in the region. It is their vision that by doing so, they will ultimately play a significant role in supporting the economic prosperity of our communities and their citizens. To that end, it is the **mission** of **The OhioMeansJobs One-Stop Partnership** to support the mission of the WDB and enhance economic development in Stark and Tuscarawas Counties by providing a common point of access to all partner programs and to the desired employment, education, and training information and activities for both employers and job seekers. The OhioMeansJobs One-Stop System strives to act as a consolidated employment resource for all One-Stop Partner programs, employers and job seeker customers. <http://omjwork.com> Monica Rose Gwin, mgwin@omjwork.com or 330-491-2629

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