

NEWS RELEASE

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United Way
of Greater Stark County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Open House Scheduled for Friday, March 17th at New United Way Financial Prosperity Center

(Canton, OH – March 17, 2017) United Way of Greater Stark County will host an Open House at its Financial Prosperity Center on Friday, March 17, 2017 from 1:00-3:00 PM. United Way of Greater Stark County's Financial Prosperity Center at OhioMeansJobs was developed to help local residents become financially stable. Services are tailored to meet the unique needs of each individual client, and focus on three primary areas: employment counseling and placement, financial education and coaching, and public benefits access.

The public is invited to attend the event, which will have a St. Patrick's Day "Pot of Gold" theme. 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.

United Way of Greater Stark County's Financial Prosperity Center at OhioMeansJobs aligns with United Way's Income BOLD GOALS. 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.

This innovative center is a wonderful example of United Way's mission to provide everyone in the community with the building blocks they need for achieving financial independence. UWGSC volunteer Chuck Ducey attests, "United Way's MyBudgetCoach Program - combined with the new Financial Prosperity Center - are powerful tools that will positively impact the financial health of our community and the individuals that participate."

"The Stark Tuscarawas Workforce Development Board is excited to partner with the United Way of Greater Stark County to provide an array of financial literacy services to customers within the OhioMeansJobs Center," says STWDB Executive Director Jennifer Meek Eells. "The Financial Prosperity Center will complement job seeker services available at the OhioMeansJobs Stark County Center. The financial and employment programs offered through the Prosperity Center will provide job seekers as well as employed individuals tools to enhance their families' financial well-being. Delivering more services through a "one-stop" location is an added benefit for our customers most in need."

United Way of Greater Stark County's Financial Prosperity Center at OhioMeansJobs is open now, and staff are meeting with clients to help them address their financial issues. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are encouraged. 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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