

NEWS RELEASE

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**United Way
of Greater Stark County**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

United Way of Greater Stark County Young Leaders Society Host Stone Soup Event

(Canton, OH) November 16, 2017 –United Way of Greater Stark County’s Young Leaders Society (YLS) hosted a **STONE SOUP** volunteer project on November 11th at Turnaround Community Outreach in Canton. The children’s story of Stone Soup is the premise for the activity, where people will come together in the spirit of cooperation. Pre-made meals are assembled for 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.

60 YLS volunteers participated in the family-friendly event, preparing energy bites, 200 hot meals and 416 peanut butter & jelly sandwiches. Each participant brought an ingredient for the snacks and meals. The peanut butter and jelly were donated from Canton South High School Key Club and employees of H-P Products. All children at the event received a copy of the Stone Soup book.

“STONE SOUP is the perfect demonstration of what UWGSC does every day through collaboration,” 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.”

“STONE SOUP is a wonderful event that educates volunteers, no matter how young or old, on the poverty and hunger that surrounds us in our community and what a large impact a small effort can make when we work together,” explains Stone Soup Co-Chair and YLS Steering Committee Member Emily Gordon. “Seeing children come together with adults to make all of these meals in just 2 hours is amazing!”

STONE SOUP volunteer events target issues surrounding the physical and behavioral health of our community. Visit www.uwstark.org/stonesoup to learn more. For additional information about hosting a Stone Soup event at your workplace or organization, call United way of Greater Stark County Volunteer Engagement Coordinator Daniel Jenkins at 330-491-9953 or email 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 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.