United Way of MPM to Invest $500,000 in Community Programs

Zanesville, Ohio, June 9, 2022 – United Way of Muskingum, Perry, and Morgan Counties (MPM) will be investing $500,000 in 2022 through three different funding cycles. In Phase One, United Way of MPM will spend $250,000 and focus on 15 initiatives that achieve goals in financial stability and education.

During Phase Two, United Way of MPM is focusing on improving community health by investing approximately $200,000 in collaborations with local health providers and assessments to advance health improvement programs.

Finally, the organization has directed $50,000 to Community Impact funding, making smaller grants for emerging needs throughout the year.

Additionally, United Way of MPM has distributed $7,322 in designations.

Total investment will exceed $500,000.

Meg Deedrick, United Way of MPM Executive Director, states: “We are acutely aware – both from formal data and anecdotal experience – of the difficulties we are facing in our households as well as our communities. Therefore, the Board of Directors, acting on the recommendations of our community-based Investment Committee, has made funding decisions to lessen these burdens and maximize impact.” She adds, “Every program receiving Phase One funding ensures people have enough food to feed their families and have increased access to assistance with housing costs and utilities or long-term asset building opportunities.”

Habitat for Humanity of Southeast Ohio is one of the programs receiving funding. Kenneth Oehlers, Executive Director, states “This investment from United Way is key in our ability to build and repair homes for more families in need.  With rising materials costs, our partnership with United Way has helped us continue to provide permanent housing solutions to residents in Muskingum, Perry, and Morgan Counties.”

United Way of MPM has the capacity to fund these programs and initiatives through the combined contributions of individuals and businesses to its annual campaign. In 2021, individuals and businesses pledged $622,159 to help achieve the health, education, and financial stability goals for the community.

John Creek, United Way of MPM donor and Investment Committee member, stated, “I have been involved with United Way for over 30 years and been involved with investment decisions for all that time.  I give to United Way of MPM because it is the one entity to which I can donate and be assured that my money will be allocated to deserving service providers in a fair and equitable way that yields the greatest impact.  I am very familiar with the leadership at United Way of MPM, and they give me the utmost confidence and trust that my donation will be spent wisely.”

If you are interested in United Way’s funded Partners and Programs, please visit [www.unitedwayofmpm.org](http://www.unitedwayofmpm.org) to view partners, program, impact, and funding amount. United Way of MPM recommends that any organization interested in applying for funding call the Community Impact Coordinator, Katie Grubbs 740-454-6872. Also, on the website you can donate to help fight for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in every community.

**About United Way of Muskingum, Perry, and Morgan Counties**: Since 1954 UWMPM has empowered local people to make the most of what they have through outcome-based initiatives and investment in local programs. UWMPM’s focus is on improving the health, education, and financial stability of every person in every community we serve. If you would like to donate, volunteer, or apply for funding, please call 740-454-6872, or visit unitedwayofmpm.org.