

# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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United Way  
of Greater Toledo

## Schools as Hubs Lead Partners selected

**TOLEDO, Ohio** – The Lead Partner organizations have been chosen for United Way of Greater Toledo’s Schools as Community Hubs initiative being implemented in four Toledo Public Schools this year.

Leverette Elementary, Pickett Elementary, Robinson Elementary, and Scott High School are all participating in the Schools as Community Hubs program and each school’s review team has completed the process of selecting a Lead Partner – an organization that will lead the Hub strategy and coordination of services in each school.

- **Leverette Elementary** selected **YMCA/JCC of Greater Toledo**
- **Pickett Elementary** selected **University of Toledo Judith Herb College of Education, Health Science and Human Service**
- **Robinson Elementary** selected **University of Toledo Judith Herb College of Education, Health Science and Human Service**
- **Scott High School** selected **Lutheran Social Services**

“We made the selection process as inclusive as possible,” said Greg Braylock, Jr., United Way’s education specialist. “We held informational meetings for organizations interested in applying and put out a comprehensive application. Diverse review teams evaluated submissions and performed interviews. Review teams for each school were gathered from the neighborhood and included principals, teachers, parents, neighborhood members, and United Way education volunteers.”

As Lead Partners, these organizations will work in partnership with school staff, families, and neighborhood stakeholders to shape the Leverette, Pickett, Robinson, and Scott Hubs. Their immediate next steps will be hiring Hub Directors who will begin an engagement process with each school’s community in the development of their neighborhood Hub.

“We’re pleased with the way the Hubs development is progressing,” said Dr. Romules Durant, assistant superintendent at TPS. “The community engagement, the competitive review process, and the collaboration have created a strong foundation to continue building a successful community initiative.”

According to the review teams, the YMCA/JCC of Greater Toledo was selected because of their experience in youth, education, and health programming; knowledge, understanding, and experience in working with and in schools; and their willingness to partner with neighborhood organizations. The University of Toledo’s strengths include existing networks/partnerships; focus and mission of the College is health, human services, and education – the priority areas of the hub model; existing and supportive relationships with community organizations focused in the Robinson and Scott feeder pattern; and a strong desire to partner with others and improve outcomes for students. Lutheran Social Services was selected because of their existing model with another school district that displays their ability to coordinate and deliver broad services; their value on the engagement of faith-

based community organizations; and their fundraising plans and ideas that would support those of Scott High School.

United Way of Greater Toledo is investing \$200,000 in this initiative, with the rest of the support coming from the TPS School Improvement Grant. To learn more about the Hubs model or to view a video of a school system that has successfully implemented the model, visit [www.unitedwaytoledo.org/education/hubs](http://www.unitedwaytoledo.org/education/hubs).

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***United Way of Greater Toledo**, serving Lucas, Wood, and Ottawa counties, changes lives by mobilizing the caring power of the community. United Way is focused on the building blocks for a good life: **education, income, and health**. Starting at the root, United Way addresses the circumstances that destabilize communities. United Way recruits people and organizations who bring the passion, expertise, and resources needed to get things done. You can give, you can advocate, and you can volunteer – that's how to **LIVE UNITED**. For more information, visit [www.unitedwaytoledo.org](http://www.unitedwaytoledo.org).*