

NEWS RELEASE

July 22, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LIVE UNITED



United Way
of Greater Toledo

*Serving Lucas, Wood,
and Ottawa Counties*

United Way marks historical event, filling thousands of backpacks for local students in need!

Toledo, Ohio – United Way of Greater Toledo (UWGT) just completed its largest philanthropic event ever, after raising more than \$65,000 to purchase backpacks and essential school supplies for local students.

Today, UWGT hosted its Kick-Off to Caring event, which was the organizations first campaign kick-off with a combined volunteer activity. After filling more than 5,000 backpacks, directly after the event, UPS delivered these bags to 14 Toledo schools and six area homeless shelters.

There are currently 2,200 Toledo Public School students who are homeless; 64 percent qualify for free and reduced lunch, and 30 percent are entering kindergarten unprepared for a successful classroom experience. Given these economic circumstances, UWGT, along with 40 local businesses and over 900 volunteers, came together to give students the tools they need to be successful when receiving their education.

“Nearly 1,000 people were in attendance this morning, making history for United Way and our community with the largest kick-off ever. In addition, we are building a stronger future for 5,000 children who will be receiving a backpack filled with supplies and hope. We applaud the hundreds of people from every age and walk of life along with our generous companies who showed up to change the odds,” said Karen Mathison, president & CEO of UWGT.

Without our strong community partners: PNC, Owens Corning, Owens-Illinois, The Andersons and The Salvation Army, this event would not have been such an incredible success. We are also pleased to say that PNC matched all donations made to the event, up to \$15,000, via their PNC Matching Challenge Grant.

If community members were unable to attend, or donate to the event, UWGT will still be taking donations, so that our community can continue to improve the educational experience of our community’s students. Visit unitedwaytoledo.org/KOC16 for more information.

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United Way of Greater Toledo, serving Lucas, Wood and Ottawa counties, unites the caring power of people to improve lives. We are made up of problem solvers, difference makers, and opportunity creators. Together, we’re on a mission to change lives forever in our community by investing in programs focused on education, financial stability, and healthy lifestyles. We tackle the tough problems in these areas by funding and partnering with the most effective local organizations who create real opportunities and get results. You can give, you can advocate, and you can volunteer – that’s how to LIVE UNITED. For more information, visit www.unitedwaytoledo.org.