



UNITED WAY OF TRUMBULL COUNTY PARTNERS ON RAIDER PANTRY

Warren, OH, October 10, 2017--Warren G. Harding High School, United Way of Trumbull County joined with partners in opening Raider Pantry. Raider Pantry will be a resource to students at Warren G. Harding High School who have a need for food, clothing and personal care items.

According to Ginny Pasha, President of United Way of Trumbull County, Raider Pantry has been created to meet the needs of high school students at Warren G. Harding High School. Dante' Capers, principal of Harding High School, affirmed the need by saying that students in his building report to the school community liaisons the need for food, clothing and personal items.

Pasha reminds us that even in working families, there may be shortage of food or a need for personal items before the next paycheck. **ALICE**, an acronym for **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed, are households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county. Data provided by the Ohio United Way ALICE project shows that the number of poverty and ALICE households combined is 63% in the City of Warren. Students who are hungry are more focused on food than on academics, and poverty is clearly linked to food insecurity and academic performance.

Kenya Roberts-Howard, Executive Director of the YWCA in Warren, says "For years YWCA Warren has recognized a growing need among the youth we serve for essential items like clothes and food. The Raider Pantry will increase our capacity to respond to these needs and to help meet our youth where they are."

The Raider Pantry will be open throughout the academic year to all Harding High School students and will be stocked with a variety of food, clothing and personal care items. The Pantry's schedule will be determined by the school and is in a location in the building where students can discreetly select items and place them in their backpacks.

Students from the Transition to Work program at Harding, under the supervision of Melissa Bartholomew, Coordinator, will take responsibility for the Raider Pantry. These students will keep inventory, order product, wash/fold/clothing, display product and collect usage data. This will serve as a work experience for these students where they will gain skills and knowledge of the business world

Partners in Raider Pantry, in addition to Warren City Schools and the YWCA, include Second Harvest Food Bank. According to Mike Iberis, executive director of Second Harvest Food Bank, "Second Harvest is currently supporting several programs at the elementary and middle school level, but this will be the first for a high school. Due to more children in danger of going hungry and having to do without the basic necessity of food, we are pleased to partner with the United Way of Trumbull County in order to deal with this situation." Iberis goes on to say, "Because a program of this type has been identified as a best practice, we have data that shows we should expect 8% - 10% of Harding students to utilize the closet each day the Pantry is open."

Pasha thanked funders who recognize the need and stepped up to make the Pantry a reality: Second Harvest Food Bank for securing funding for food, the Kiwanis Club of Warren and an anonymous donor who wants to be sure students have what they need to be academically successful. Kurt Sauer, President Kiwanis Club of Warren, Ohio was present at the opening. "Kiwanis' principal focus is assisting kids. We of the Kiwanis Club of Warren are pleased to assist the United Way in providing some funding for the operation of Raider Pantry, removing for those in need one more roadblock to successful completion of their education."

For 94 years, United Way of Trumbull County has played a critical role in our community by mobilizing the best resources to meet Trumbull County's most pressing needs. United Way works with 23 partner agencies and provides funding to 37 programs that helps to create sustainable change, emphasizing on income, education and health and meeting basic need issues. United Way's vision is to build a community where everyone has the opportunity to reach their full potential simply by Living United. For more information, visit www.unitedwaytrumbull.org and www.unitedway.com.

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