



United Way Alliance of
the Mid-Ohio Valley

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

United Way meets critical need with Gabriel Project donation

Parkersburg, WV – May 27 – United Way Alliance of the Mid-Ohio Valley has donated \$7,525 to the MOV Chapter of the Gabriel Project to fund the purchase of 43 cribs that will be given to local families in need. The Gabriel Project is a grass roots, non-profit organization that provides direct assistance to pregnant women and families with young children. The Gabriel Project provides necessary baby items such as car seats, cribs, diapers, formula and clothing. The organization's volunteers also provide emotional support, general baby care and child development information, and referrals to other community organizations.

"When we were made aware of the Gabriel Project's waiting list for cribs, we knew we had to do something about it," said Andrea Shirey United Way Executive Director. "The Gabriel Project has been a United Way funded partner in the past and we know first-hand the impact they are making on this community. They have a unique challenge of the need to raise awareness of their services but also the need for funding to make those services available," Shirey said. Shirey said that United Way board members learned about the lengthy waiting list for cribs during a presentation made by the Gabriel Project as they were requesting funding for 2016.

"As an organization, we are completely ecstatic and deeply humbled by this gift from the United Way. Both Andrea and the Board have been so supportive and encouraging of our efforts and the initiatives we are bringing to the MOV. Their show of faith and endorsement of our work by making these funds available is astounding" said Stacy DeCicco, Chapter Coordinator for the MOV. "To think that we will be able to move everyone from our waiting list and place that many young children in safe sleep environments is amazing. This will allow us to continue growing our footprint, and expand our services into the community; this money will not only help the 43 families on the crib waiting list, but it will open up services to so many more families that we will now be able to reach out to as we continue to raise awareness of our organization and the services we provide. The United Way Alliance of the Mid-Ohio Valley has been a fantastic partner for the Gabriel Project. They are providing us the support to really make a difference right here in our community."

Aaron Stone serves as the Board Chairman for United Way and emphasized that one of United Way's primary goals is to partner with organizations that are creating sustainable change in the community. "Under Stacy's local leadership, Gabriel Project is helping families with critical resources that will save lives. We know that parents who are not able to afford a safe crib for their baby may feel they have no other choice than to put them in a bed with another adult, which is unsafe. If we can be a part of the solution and make sure these families have what they need to raise their children in a safe environment, we absolutely want to do that."

Every year, United Way sets aside an amount of money allocated to meet emergency needs in the community. This pool of funds is then used to meet unexpected needs of both United Way funded partners, as well as other qualifying organizations. It is yet one more way that local donations meet local needs.

“I can see no better use of these funds than to meet this need at Gabriel Project and encourage them to keep helping families right here in our neighborhood,” Shirey stated. “This is what United Way is all about – strategic partnerships with local non-profits that are moving us forward as a community and making an impact in Education, Income and Health. Those are the building blocks of a great community.”

United Way Alliance closed its 2014-2015 Campaign at the end of March and recently completed the funding application cycle with 45 organizations applying for funding. Recipients of funding will be announced in June and a report of how all the funding received this past year will be used will be published in August.

About United Way Alliance of the Mid-Ohio Valley

United Way Alliance of the Mid-Ohio Valley advances the common good by creating opportunities for a better life for all. Our focus is on Education, Income and Health. We focus on critical issues, engage with private and public sector leaders and coordinate agendas with partners to leverage collective impact. We invite everyone to be part of the change by giving, advocating and volunteering. When we work together in common purpose, we LIVE UNITED. For more information about United Way Alliance, visit www.uwamov.com

Photo: United Way Executive Director Andrea Shirey presents a check for \$7,525 to Stacy DeCicco to cover the cost of 43 cribs that will be given to families in need.