

## NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **United Way, Charter One Foundation and *The Repository* host Family Financial Fair Mar. 7**

*(Canton, OH) February 5, 2009*—United Way of Greater Stark County, Charter One Foundation and *The Repository* are co-sponsoring a Family Financial Fair, Sat., Mar. 7 at Stark State College of Technology from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The event is free to the public and will feature exhibits and educational presentations from community experts. Stark Area Regional Transit Authority (SARTA) will be providing free transportation via special shuttles from central transfer stations in Alliance, Massillon and Canton to and from Stark State.

Exhibits and presenters will cover topics including improving credit reports & scores, retirement planning, investment basics, foreclosure prevention, identity theft prevention, savings, banking basics, legal tips, budgeting, paying for college and more.

“We are proud to co-sponsor this educational event,” says Maria Heege, president and CEO of United Way of Greater Stark County. “We want to point individuals in the right direction when it comes to their finances and help families with effective ways to handle their money. This event fully represents the United Way mission to help others during difficult and worrisome times.”

The United Way Financial Stability Partnership’s goal is to boost efforts towards a positive economic future for residents of Stark County. The partnership includes members from Consumer Credit Counseling Services, Attorney General of the State of Ohio, Stark County Auditor’s office, representatives of United Way service providers and community volunteers.

Free transportation to and from the Financial Fair will be provided by SARTA via special shuttles at the transfer stations located in Canton, Massillon and Alliance. The buses will board passengers at the transfer stations at 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon for the trip to Stark State. They will also board passengers at 1:15 p.m. and 4:15 p.m. for the return trip. The SARTA Canton transfer station is located at 112 Cherry Ave. S.E., the Massillon transfer station is located at 41 S. Erie St. and the Alliance transfer station is located at 10 Prospect St. at the corner of N. Union Ave. (Rt. 183.) Stark State College of Technology is located at 6200 Frank Ave. N.W. in North Canton.

Additional event sponsors include Stark County Commissioners and Auditor’s office, Stark State College of Technology, SARTA, Consumer Credit Counseling Services, Attorney General of the State of Ohio and United Way’s 2-1-1 Information and Referral line.

For more information about the Family Financial Fair, please contact Pete Schaeffer, director of Impact Councils, at (330) 491-9986 or pschaeffer@uwgsc.org.

MORE

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## **United Way financial stability resources now available online for taxpayers and employers**

### **Countywide Free Tax Preparation Sites**

Stark County residents can access free tax preparation locations, times and phone numbers to make an appointment in communities throughout greater Stark County. A list of items needed to have tax returns prepared is included.

Visit <http://www.uwstark.org/Taxinfo.html>

### **Employers' Financial Stability Toolkit provides employers materials to assist workforce**

Online promotional tools designed for use by workplaces and organizations include tools to increase awareness of the EITC Tax Benefit for taxpayers, to provide access to free tax return preparation information, to gain access to the services United Way's 2-1-1 Information and Referral hotline offers and to promote the community Family Financial Fair on Saturday, March 7 at Stark State College of Technology. Visit <http://www.uwstark.org/EmployersToolkit.html>

As part of a countywide effort to increase economic independence and family financial stability, the United Way of Greater Stark County is collaborating with community partners to offer tips on financial planning, tax benefits and money management so individuals and families can better weather the current economic climate.

United Way's Financial Stability Partnership includes members from Consumer Credit Counseling Services, Treasurer/Attorney General of the State of Ohio, Stark County Auditor's office, representatives of United Way service providers and community volunteers.

United Way of Greater Stark County is a not-for-profit organization that seeks to improve lives in measurable and lasting ways by mobilizing thousands of people around a common goal: advancing the common good. United Way funds programs that focus on Early Education & Care, Graduation & Training and Family Stability. United Way believes these are the building blocks for a good life and that a quality education leads to a stable job, enough income to support a family through retirement, a safe place to live and good health.

For more information about United Way visit [www.uwstark.org](http://www.uwstark.org). Headquarters are at 4825 Higbee Avenue NW, Suite 101, Canton, Ohio 44718. Dial (330) 491-0445 to reach the offices.

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