

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMPASS releases 2008 Stark County Community Indicators report

(Canton, OH) Feb. 11, 2009—COMPASS, the data center for United Way of Greater Stark County, has released a comprehensive overview of countywide trends with specific indicators and data. The annual report, entitled “2008 Stark County Community Indicators Report,” identifies trends in community living, economics, education, environment, families and households, health, neighborhood development and public safety. The free report is available online at <http://www.starkcompass.org>.

“Organizations can use the Indicators report as an assessment tool when applying for grant funding,” says Merele Kinsey, Process Manager for COMPASS. “There is a movement toward data-driven decision making and many funding organizations are requiring greater accountability. COMPASS is able to provide that information.”

COMPASS (Community Objectives Met through a Partnership of All Segments of Society) collects data and information about Stark County in order assist community organizations to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of investments. In a unique process, COMPASS involves community members that review and discuss the data collected and help shape the annual Indicators report into user-friendly information.

A direct service of United Way, COMPASS is an invaluable tool for researchers, realtors, policymakers, grant writers, educators, business and industry, government, students and others who need to know facts and information about our county. In addition to statistics, COMPASS posts reports and studies about our county, does comparative analyses of Stark County to Ohio and the U.S., and provides links to many other valuable sources of local and national data. Organizations and individuals are encouraged to request data about Stark County. For more information about COMPASS, please contact Merele Kinsey, Process Manager at 330-491-9972 or mkinsey@uwgsc.org.

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. Headquarters are at 4825 Higbee Avenue NW, Suite 101, Canton, Ohio 44718. Dial (330) 491-0445 to reach the offices.

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