

MUC Trash to Treasure donation benefits SPARK and Interfaith

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United Way of Greater Stark County

SPARK and Stuckey Interfaith Child Development Center were presented with checks from United Way of Greater Stark County Friday as a result of the "Trash to Treasure" fundraiser held by Mount Union College in May. Each organization received more than \$1,100 to benefit programs in the Alliance community.

"We are thrilled to give the proceeds of Mount Union's student-led sale back to Alliance community programs," said Maria Heege, president and CEO of United Way of Greater Stark County. "The Trash to Treasures sale has been a win for everyone involved -- the community, the agencies and their clients, Mount Union with an additional way to enhance their community and cost savings, student volunteers with education about need in the community and to be environmentally sensitive."

"We are just really excited that United Way decided to distribute the money back into our community, especially at these two organizations, and we are looking forward to working with United Way again this year," said Lorie Miller, director of community educational outreach at Mount Union, one of the lead organizer's of the event.

On May 6 and May 7, Mount Union College and United Way of Greater Stark County partnered to bring a campuswide recycling event, "Trash to Treasure" to life. From April 24 through May 5, students, staff and faculty at Mount Union were encouraged to donate clothing, furniture, food, school supplies and toiletries that they were planning to throw away. The items donated were organized in Wilson Hall and then sold to community members for a small fee. The funds collected were donated to United Way of Greater Stark County. Participants received training on sustainability and recycling, using volunteers from public agencies and Mount Union College faculty.

The drive for the Trash to Treasures sale netted student, staff and faculty donations of 500 canned food items, 200 pairs of shoes, 3,000 clothing items, 50 pieces of furniture, four boxes of school supplies and two boxes of toiletries.

Mount Union College reported a \$700 savings in the area of waste management.

n A total of \$2,345.10 in cash was earned from the sale of 200 pairs of shoes, 3,000 clothing items, 50 pieces of furniture, four boxes of school supplies and two boxes of toiletries

n A total of 500 canned food items were collected.

n Approximately 100 student volunteers were introduced to the United Way and received United Way T-shirts.

n A total of 450 hours volunteer hours were donated by the students to this project.

Being environmentally conscious is something the Mount Union community takes very seriously. "Sustainability is a global issue that we all have a responsibility to address," said Richard F. Giese, president of Mount Union College. "This means taking serious action today to ensure the planet's existence as we know it in the future. Mount Union is committed to leading the way."