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United Way Responds to Closing of Family Visitation Center

“The United Way of Van Wert County has been privileged to serve the Van Wert community for nearly 90 years. We take very seriously the obligation and trust we have been charged with by the community, to be good stewards of contributed dollars. Community needs are matched with financial resources to achieve the best results for the betterment of the people of Van Wert County”, states Meghan Dicke, Board President.

“The Admissions and Review Committee is comprised of community volunteers that spend countless hours reviewing funding applications and making their recommendations to the United Way Executive Committee. The Executive Committee then presents these recommendations to the Board of Trustees. They are discussed and voted on whether to be approved or not approved. Funding recommendations are discussed at three different levels”.

Dicke continued, “The situation with the Family Visitation Center was not one that came about lightly. It was discussed at length during the Admissions and Review process before a recommendation was made. United Way funding only represented \$3,558 or 7.7% of the Visitation Center’s overall budget. The other 92.3% of the their budget came from the Van Wert County Commissioners, the State of Ohio, and the federal government. Seven other United Way agencies also saw a reduction in their allocations. There were just not enough funds to meet the full request of \$9,156. We knew that it was going to be difficult for the center to remain open because of program funding being reduced by the state and federal government. Unfortunately, we could not in good conscience, continue to fund a program that was going to see major reductions and/or elimination of its major funding sources”.

“Each agency filling out a funding application is provided with a written appeals process. If an agency does not agree with the funding decision, they can request a meeting with the executive director within 10 working days to review the funding application and the factors involved. If an agency feels the situation has not been resolved, they can then request a meeting with the Admissions and Review Committee, the Executive Committee, and the Board of Trustees. The Crisis Care Line made no appeal”, concluded Dicke.