



# HIGHLIGHTS & HAPPENINGS



## Campaign 2014—Be a Hero—Change Won't Happen Without You

Percy, adorned in his hero cape, joined us for our Campaign Kick-Off. It was a great success. Board members, sporting hero capes, along with additional volunteers revealed our largest goal ever of \$775,000! Our volunteers are dedicated and hard-working. Their time and effort have made a real difference! Orrville Area United Way is committed to education leading to a stable income that will support a family, and health and wellness. Volunteers are the cornerstone to our goal, and we invite you to be a hero and become a United Way volunteer. The organizations and community members who volunteer their time bring expertise and resources to get the job done, but most of all they have a heart. They understand that difficult times bring difficult challenges, and we can make a difference. That is what it means to LIVE UNITED.

### Did You Know?

- 1 in 4 children in Ohio lives with food insecurity.
- In Wayne County, 21% of people live below 150% of poverty level.
- According to The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Ohio 2013, "For two adult families, the emergency savings goal needs to cover half of the family's total living expenses for four months, assuming that only one adult loses his/her job at a given time."
- According to the same study, a family of four needs two adults working full-time, each earning \$15 per hour, to cover necessities without using any government or private assistance.
- According to the same study, there is no place in Ohio where a single person earning the state's \$7.85 per hour minimum wage can meet his or her own basic needs.

### Need help?



Dial 2-1-1 or 1-800-650-HELP to connect with an Information & Referral Specialist

Some examples include:

- Job training and volunteer opportunities
- Financial or legal counseling
- Foreclosure / low-income housing
- Homelessness assistance and shelter referrals
- Mental and Health care services
- Volunteer opportunities
- Free tax preparation
- Food assistance / food pantries
- Substance abuse treatment
- Child or elderly care
- Holiday assistance
- Community crisis or disaster recovery support



**"Keep your footsies safe and your nests comfy!"**



**Happy Feet For Kids** provides shoes, socks, and winter boots to children and youth from income-eligible families (175% of the poverty level). Each enrolled student is eligible for 2 pairs of shoes or 1 pair of shoes and 1 pair of winter boots per year, as well as the chance to pick out awesome new socks provided by members of our community.

**Sweet Dreams For Kids** provides new sheets, blankets, and pillow cases to children and youth from income-eligible families (175% of the poverty level).



**Percy's Weekend Backpack** program provides food for the weekend in backpacks for elementary school students whose families are experiencing food insecurity.



For more information families may contact the Orrville Area United Way.  
140 East Market Street  
Orrville, Ohio 44667  
(330) 683-8181

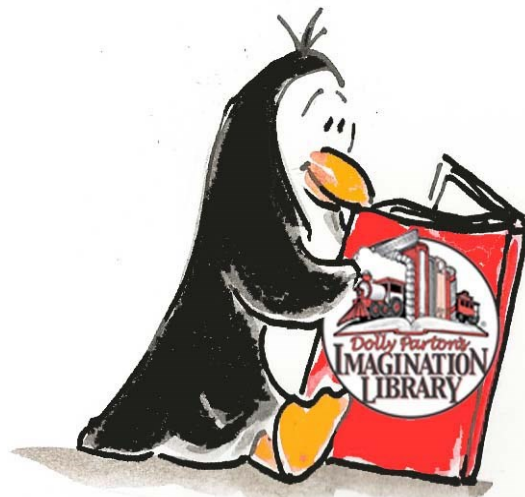
Or visit our website: [www.orrvilleareaunitedway.org](http://www.orrvilleareaunitedway.org)

*(Recipients must live in Orrville, Dalton or Marshallville)*

**Orrville Reads Volunteers**

Orrville Reads is a program that matches adult volunteers with Orrville Elementary School students to provide reading support and encouragement.

If you are interested in reading with a student and can volunteer for a ½ hour per week, please contact the coordinator, Janel Criss, at 330-682-0222 or email [nellcrafty@aol.com](mailto:nellcrafty@aol.com) for more information.



**Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)**

Each year in February, our United Way sponsors a VITA site for individuals and families who qualify for **free** tax assistance. Pickett & Pickett Tax & Investments coordinates and supervises the Site, and the Orrville Public Library provides the space for the service. We also utilize many dedicated volunteers who make the whole thing work.

Our VITA site prepared **153** tax returns in 2014, for a total of **\$302,928** in refunds and tax credits claimed! Our goal is to serve even more families in 2015.

This is an excellent benefit to our community, and you can be a part of it. If you decide to volunteer as a tax preparer, you will receive training materials in December and will need to take a test online at the IRS to be certified. You can also volunteer to be a greeter. The Pickett's provide lots of support and assistance, and our volunteers have fun!

*If you are willing to volunteer as a tax preparer or greeter for VITA, contact our United Way at 330-683-8181.*