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United Way of Central WV Announces Disbursement of West Virginia Emergency Fund

CHARLESTON –On January 13, 2014, United Way of Central West Virginia established the WV Emergency Fund to assist affected residents who suffered from lost wages and reduction in work hours as a result of the recent water crisis and due to no fault of their own. To date, the Fund has grown to over \$70,000 and has received donations from local individuals, foundations and corporations and financial support from across the country. John Ballengee, executive director of United Way, stated, “we have been amazed at the support from local neighbors and companies along with support from all over the United States. Thanks to social media, we have received support from Washington, Florida, Iowa, Virginia, Connecticut, Texas, Pennsylvania, and beyond. We are comforted to know that our theme “neighbors helping neighbors” extends to Americans helping West Virginians.”

Distribution of funds to those eligible for support is scheduled to begin January 27, 2014.

United Way is proud to work with a number of community organizations who have volunteered to serve as intake sites for distribution of the Fund. Affected workers can visit the United Way web site at www.unitedwaycww.org to find the locations, hours of operation of approved community based providers, and eligibility requirements. Approved community based providers include The Salvation Army, Mountain Mission, and Catholic Charities in Charleston; Heart and Hand in South Charleston; Tyler Mt./Cross Lanes Community Services in Cross Lanes; EnAct offices in Clendenin, Chesapeake, and Hurricane; PRIDE Community Services in Logan; Boone County Community Organization in Madison; and, Community Resources, Inc. in Ripley.

Once eligibility requirements are met, affected workers can qualify for up to \$200 in assistance depending on work hours lost and hourly wage. Applicants will be required to provide a paystub issued in the last thirty (30) days, a valid government issued identification card, current utility bill(s) and the emergency fund application form. Verification of lost work and hourly wage will be required from the worker’s employer. Assistance will be provided on a first come first served basis and affected workers can apply at any approved provider. Individual awards will be sent directly to a utility company of the applicants choosing. The deadline for application funding is anticipated to be February 21, 2014 depending on availability of funds.

Donations will continue to be accepted for the Emergency Fund. Donations can be made via cash, check, or credit card by contacting United Way of Central West Virginia using the information below. Donations can also be made ON-LINE at www.unitedwaycww.org by clicking the West Virginia Emergency Fund “donate here” box. We ask you to join us in emphasizing the importance of “neighbors helping neighbors” by assisting those who have been affected by this water emergency.

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About the United Way of Central West Virginia: *United Way is a volunteer-led, volunteer-driven organization representing Boone, Clay, Logan, Kanawha and Putnam counties. From the board of directors to fund-raising volunteers and the others who lend a hand each year, volunteer leaders ensure United Way continues to make an impact on the issues that matter most. United Way of Central West Virginia is dedicated to making sure children and youth achieve their potential through access to quality educational programs; promoting financial stability and independence; improving people's health. By encouraging all people in central West Virginia to give, advocate or volunteer, United Way wants to show the power of "living united". For more information, visit www.unitedwaycwv.org or call 304.340.3500.*