

May 13, 2020

Contact: Joane Cunningham, Executive Director, Decatur County United Fund
812-663-3342 | unitedfunddc@etczone.com

COVID-19 Relief Initiative Coming to Decatur County United Fund

[Greensburg, IN] – Decatur County United Fund is pleased to announce that it has been approved to receive a \$150,000 *COVID-19 Economic Relief Initiative Grant*, made possible through a partnership between Lilly Endowment, Inc. and Indiana United Ways, the state professional association of which Decatur County United Fund is a member. These special funds will be used to boost the efforts of selected area human and social service nonprofits on the frontlines of the Covid-19 pandemic.

“Decatur County United Fund has been a key convener and coordinator of our community’s response to meet human needs for decades. Even before this crisis, we knew that 1 in 3 families in Decatur County were not able to make ends meet - despite working. Without a robust local nonprofit safety net, those needs are bound to become even more challenging. Thanks to generous support from Indiana United Ways and the Lilly Endowment, Inc., we are now positioned to help our community’s nonprofits deal with the impact of Covid-19,” said Jayne McClelland, Board President for Decatur County United Fund.

Joane Cunningham, Executive Director of the Decatur County United Fund shared, “A Grant Team has been selected by the United Fund to help in this community process. The team consists of the United Fund Board President, Jayne McClelland, United Fund Treasurer Brad Schutte, Executive Director Joane Cunningham, and Community Impact Assistant Terri Jones. Other key partners include the Decatur County Community Foundation Executive Director Tami Wenning, Board President Daryl Tressler along with Alex Sefton, Resource Development Director. Also serving on the committee is Mayor Josh Marsh and Commissioner Rick Nobbe. Cunningham noted, “This community minded team will oversee the grant processes and dollars moving forward with reporting to the United Fund and Community Foundation Board of Directors.”

The *COVID-19 Economic Relief Initiative Grant* calls for our United Fund to leverage partnerships and relationships to better meet Covid-related essential and basic needs. This would include addressing Covid-19 critical issues as they emerge. Specifically, Decatur County United Fund plans to work with our community grant team to document the current needs, provide an application process with outcome based criteria, award these essential dollars in a timely manner to help impact those most in need, and report back to the community. Agency partners will be key to the resilience our community will have in the near and long term future. Decatur County United Fund will begin accepting funding requests from area human and social service nonprofits in good standing beginning here in May. Interested organizations should consult Decatur County United Fund and Decatur County Community Foundation websites (very soon) for guidance on funding intent and application instructions.

###

Decatur County United Fund has been in operations since 1957. Our mission is mobilizing the power of our community to develop and maintain resources to meet human needs. Our vision is to improve the quality of life for the people of Decatur County, especially the most vulnerable. Increase human and capital resources available to support our community partner's efforts to address community-wide goals. Serve as a community leader developing and leveraging diverse, collaborative partnerships to impact health and human services outcomes. For more information, contact Joane Cunningham, Executive Director at unitedfunddc@etczone.com.

Lilly Endowment Inc. is a private philanthropic foundation supporting the causes of religion, education and community development focusing its work in Indianapolis and the State of Indiana. For more information, contact Judith Cebula, Communications Director at communications@lei.org.

Indiana United Ways is the state association for United Ways in Indiana that supports thriving United Ways through capacity building, shared services, and partnering. For more information, contact Maureen Noe, President & CEO at Maureen.noe@iuw.org.