**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Wednesday, October 17, 2018**

**CONTACT:**Andrea Roy,director of community impact, at 304-523-8929, ext. 107

**Application for Big Cover Up youth project open to area schools**

**HUNTINGTON, W.VA.—**United Way of the River Cities is accepting grant proposals from area high schools for The Big Cover Up youth initiative.

The Big Cover Up is a matching grant available to student service clubs that develop a project to provide coats, hats, gloves and other necessary warm clothing to younger students in need. High schools in Cabell, Wayne, Lincoln, and Mason counties in West Virginia, and in Lawrence County, Ohio, are eligible to apply.

“Now in its 19th year, The Big Cover Up has helped provide warm clothing to hundreds of local children and taught hundreds more high school students the joy of giving back to their community,” said Andrea Roy, director of community impact.

Matching funds raised by student groups are not required to be dollar-for-dollar for grant funds; monies raised, in-kind contributions, or discounts from retailers all can be counted as match. Each group must have a faculty sponsor. However, the project must be youth-led.

Grant awards are generously funded through a donation from Advantage Toyota. The application and complete project guidelines are available by contacting Roy at 304-523.-8929, ext. 107 or by e-mail to andrea.roy@unitedwayrivercities.org. The application deadline is November 16, 2018.

United Way of the River Cities is a nonprofit organization, the mission of which is to fight for the health, education and financial stability of every person in their community. To learn more about the United Way of the River Cities or to donate please visit unitedwayrivercities.org.

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