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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 25, 2021**

**Contact: Rick W. Smith Sr.**

**740-773-3280**

**American Electric Power Foundation Awards the United Way Ross $10,000**

**Ross County, Ohio**-- American Electric Power (AEP) Foundation has selected the United Way of Ross County to award $10,000 to support the United Way 2-1-1 service.

The AEP Foundation provides grants to nonprofits in 11 states that focus on improving lives in hunger, emergency shelter, housing, STEM, early childhood education, and meeting individuals' basic needs.

The United Way of Ross County was awarded $10,000 for the management of its 2-1-1 service. 2-1-1 is a vital resource line connecting residents of Ross County to a resource manager 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This service helps Ross County residents find the local resources they are seeking in the areas of food, shelter, health, education, and much more.

"We relaunched our 2-1-1 service here in Ross County almost a year ago. The relaunched service does an outstanding job of connecting our residents to the services they need," says Kasha Henning, community impact manager, United Way of Ross County. Henning adds, “Last year alone, our 2-1-1 service managed more than 2,000 calls. We see the service making a difference every day.”

If you would like to donate to support the Ross County 2-1-1 service or to any of the many services supported by the United Way of Ross County, visit the website at [www.unitedwayross.org](http://www.unitedwayross.org)

**-more-**

**The United Way of Ross County (UWRC) traced its roots to at least 1937 when the Chillicothe Community Fund supported five organizations: Boy Scouts, Ross County YMCA, Salvation Army, Ross County Welfare Association (forerunner of The Assistance House), and the Ross County Tuberculosis Association. The theme of the campaign was: "Give once… but give enough for all FIVE." In 1942, the Council of Social Agencies of Chillicothe and Ross County was chartered by the State of Ohio. In 1954, the name of the organization was changed to the Community Chest and Council of Chillicothe and Ross County. The current name, United Way of Ross County, adopted in 1986, more accurately identified its affiliation with United Way of America.**

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