

FILE

alison@tuscarawascounty.org

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
AEP Ohio ESP – Case Nos. 11-346-EL-SSO & 11-348-EL-SSO
June 7, 2011

Name: Alison Kerns
Business: United Way of Tuscarawas County, Inc.
Type of Business: A not-for-profit charitable organization
Business Address: 1458 5th Street N.W., New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663
Position: President

Qualifications: Bachelor degree in psychology from Kenyon College
Licensed Social Worker in the State of Ohio
Employed by the United Way of Tuscarawas County since August, 1996

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Purpose of Statement: To share the positive impact of AEP Ohio's Partnership with Ohio Program

Statement:

The United Way of Tuscarawas County has been the recipient of both financial and volunteer support from AEP Ohio for many years. In the last ten years alone, AEP and its employees have been recognized by the United Way of Tuscarawas County for their campaign participation with five (5) Bronze Awards, one (1) Silver Award, four (4) Gold Awards, three (3) President's Awards, and three (3) Leadership Circle Awards. That level of investment in our mission has allowed United Way of Tuscarawas County to touch the lives of numerous individuals in need of health and human services.

In addition to their continued support of our campaign, AEP Ohio has awarded a Partnership with Ohio grant to the United Way of Tuscarawas County for each of the last three years. AEP's Partnership with Ohio (PWO) program is a \$15 million shareholder funded program. Established in the previous electric security filing, PWO grants assist agencies throughout Ohio address issues around hunger, health, and housing. The United Way of Tuscarawas County has utilized PWO funds to assist low-income residents facing a housing emergency.

I would like to provide some specific information regarding how Tuscarawas and Carroll County residents have benefited from our receipt of Partnership with Ohio funding from AEP Ohio.

In December of 2009, United Way of Tuscarawas County received a Partnership with Ohio grant of \$10,987. These funds were utilized to provide thirty-six (36) households with rent assistance and two (2) households with mortgage assistance.

In May of 2010, United Way of Tuscarawas County received a second Partnership with Ohio grant. This time the grant amount was \$11,319. With these funds, United Way was able to provide thirty-eight (38) households with rent assistance and two (2) households with security deposits.

Just last month (May 2011), AEP Ohio awarded United Way of Tuscarawas County a third Partnership with Ohio grant in the amount of \$12,085. To date, United Way has been able to assist twenty-eight (28) households with rent assistance and two (2) households with mortgage assistance.

For their commitment to assisting those in need, AEP Ohio was recently recognized by the United Way of Tuscarawas as our "Emergency Needs Care Area Partner of the Year".

In conclusion, funding from the Partnership with Ohio program has been vital in stabilizing area families impacted by the economic downturn and local housing crisis of the last few years. I want to thank you all for the opportunity to share the positive impact we have achieved with the help of AEP Ohio.

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