FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE   **February 1, 2018**

UNITED WAY OF OXFORD, OHIO AND VICINITY ANNOUNCES MERGER
WITH BUTLER COUNTY UNITED WAY

Butler County, OH –

The Board of Directors of United Way of Oxford, Ohio and Vicinity and the Board of Trustees of Butler County United Way are pleased to announce a merger of the two organizations effective February 1, 2018. The surviving organization will be Butler County United Way. The two organizations have been in discussions regarding a merger for well over a year and feel that the timing is right for the consolidation.

"Our mission and philosophy regarding our service to the Oxford community remains unchanged", stated Carol Hauser, President of the United Way of Oxford Board of Directors. "However, it is also important that we preserve the ability to provide that service. With a small organization like ours, it has been difficult to maintain a level of consistency when it comes to managing the backroom operations along with being the face of United Way."

Over the past several years, Butler County United Way has been a partner in providing the additional operational support needed to maintain United Way of Oxford as a stand-alone organization. This merger will achieve administrative stability and reduce administrative costs, which will ultimately result in increased financial support for partner agencies supporting the Oxford area.

"We have reached a point where merging these organizations is not only logical, but allows United Way to continue serving the citizens of Oxford on an even greater scale," said Mag Baker, President and CEO of Butler County United Way. "The support of the Oxford community in addressing the vulnerabilities of its citizens is vital to the success we have achieved in the past and plan to achieve in the future."

Connecting and Mobilizing Resources to Improve Lives

Contact:
Pamela R, Cottle, Vice President of Operations
513.785.2348 or pcottle @bc-unitedway.org

Butler County United Way was established in 1920 and had 2017 net assets of over $1.7 million. Including the assets from United Way of Oxford, which was established in 1941, the assets of the combined organization will reach nearly $2 million. Under the agreement, an Oxford Advisory Board will remain in place to steer the allocation process for the Oxford area. In addition, a minimum of two Oxford representative seats will be held on the Butler County United Way Board of Trustees. These seats will initially be filled by Carol Hauser, former Oxford Board President and Amy Macechko, former Oxford Board Vice President.

Effective with the merger, Carol Havens, former United Way of Oxford Board member, has been hired by Butler County United Way, to serve as an Area Relationship Manager with her primary focus being the Oxford area. With Carol's knowledge of the Oxford area, the advanced backroom operations now available, as well as the strength of the Butler County United Way organization, the citizens of Oxford will be well served for many years to come.

A celebration of the merger will be held on Monday, February 26, 2018 from 5:00 – 6:30 at The Knolls of Oxford, 6727 Contreras Road, Oxford, Ohio 45056. All donors, board members, community officials and staff are invited to attend. Please RSVP by Friday, February 23, 2018 to 513.785.2349 or to cabraham@bc-unitedway.org.

Butler County United Way fights for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in every community. We win by Living United…by forging unlikely partnerships…by finding new solutions to old problems…by mobilizing the best resources…and by inspiring individuals to join the fight against their community's most daunting social crises.

We invite you to join the fight by giving, advocating or volunteering. For additional information, contact Butler County United Way at (513) 863-0800 or visit www.bc-unitedway.org.

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