



PRESS RELEASE

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County Executive Ilene Shapiro, Summit County Council, and FirstEnergy Foundation Step Up for Stand Down

Today, County Executive Ilene Shapiro's Office and Troy Rhoades, Manager of External Affairs for FirstEnergy presented two checks totaling \$20,000 to Larry Moore, Director of Summit County Veterans Service Commission. The donations are part of a collaborative partnership called **Step Up for Stand Down**. Through this partnership, Summit County and FirstEnergy Foundation donate funds in support of the annual Summit County Stand Down.

The Laura Williams Dunlop Memorial Stand Down, founded in 2005, is an annual day of community-based programming to help local homeless and displaced veterans prepare for the winter months. The veterans receive warm clothing, sleeping bags, gloves, hats and shoes. The veterans also receive medical testing, legal counseling and food cards. There will be counselors available to work with veterans on earned benefits and available services.

"Hundreds of Summit County Veterans attend The Laura Williams Dunlop Memorial Stand Down each year," said County Executive Ilene Shapiro. "I am very proud that we as a community continue to **Step Up for Stand Down**. We can never fully repay our debt of gratitude to our local service members, but it is incumbent upon all of us to make sure no veteran goes without basic needs." Today's funds bring the

four year total of the Summit County and FirstEnergy Foundation partnership in supporting the Stand Down to \$80,000.

“The continued commitment and partnership between Summit County and FirstEnergy Foundation in support of our veterans in need is fantastic,” said Summit County Council President Jeff Wilhite. “Stand Down has been the backbone in providing our amazing veterans with essentials they may need in their daily lives.”

The Step Up for Stand Down initiative began in 2016 in response to a fire that destroyed donated items intended for homeless and displaced veterans. Summit County and FirstEnergy stepped up with donations to fill the gap in supplies due to the fire.

“FirstEnergy is proud and honored to once again partner with Executive Shapiro in support our veterans through Stand Down,” said Troy Rhoades, Manager of External Affairs for FirstEnergy. “I want to thank the many volunteers who put in countless hours year after year. This event is possible because of these incredible and dedicated individuals.”

The Laura Williams Dunlop Memorial 2019 Stand Down for Homeless and Displaced Veterans of Summit County will be held on Tuesday, September 10 from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the Firestone VFW Post 3383 located at 690 Waterloo Road in Akron.

For more information on how to donate and volunteer, please visit <http://summitcountystanddown.org/>.





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