



PRESS RELEASE

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

Today, County Executive Ilene Shapiro and Kirk Gardner, Manager of External Affairs for FirstEnergy presented two checks totaling \$20,000 to Larry Moore, Executive Director of Summit County Veterans Service Commission. The donations are part of a partnership called, **Step Up for Stand Down**, which was created when our local Stand Down found themselves in great need of donations for their September 2016 event.

“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 owe our veterans the highest level of gratitude for their courage and commitment to not only our nation, but to all of us here in Summit County.”

Stand Down is a full day of community and grassroots intervention that assists our homeless and displaced Veterans in preparing for the winter months by supplying them with 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.

“Stand Down has been the backbone in providing our amazing veterans with essentials they may need in their daily lives,” said Summit County Councilmember-at-Large Clair Dickinson. “In the spirit of gratitude, I’d like to thank Stand Down for all of their excellent work and service.”

In the past, the United States Department of Defense has supplied the Stand Down with surplus items. However, two years ago, a fire destroyed a New Jersey warehouse that housed over \$700,000 worth of donations that were being sent out to assist local agencies such as Stand Down.

“Taking care of our veterans, particularly those who are homeless or displaced, is a vitally important civic duty, one we’re both proud and honored to support again this year through Stand Down,” said Kirk Gardner, Manager of External Affairs for FirstEnergy. “We join Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro in thanking the volunteers for their work on this important project.”

The Laura Williams Dunlop Memorial 2018 Stand Down for Homeless and Displaced Veterans of Summit County will be held on Tuesday, September 11 from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the Firestone VFW Post 3383 located at 690 Waterloo Road in Akron.

Please visit: <http://summitcountystanddown.org/> for more information on how to donate and volunteer

