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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – January 21, 2021 CONTACT – Brenda Sapanghila Bsapanghila@rappahannockunitedway.org 540-373-0041 x303

## RAPPAHANNOCK UNITED WAY LAUNCHES COVID-19 SURVEY

In the midst of this crisis, RUW seeks to understand how local households are being affected.

**Fredericksburg, VA – 01/21/2021** The year 2020 was a tough year for many Greater Fredericksburg region residents.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, requests for financial assistance from Rappahannock United Way have more than tripled – many of them from households who are typically financially stable, requesting help with bills, childcare and housing costs for the first time.

In order to assess the true impact of COVID-19 on our local community's households, Rappahannock United Way is launching an online survey open to the general public. Available in both English and Spanish, the survey is open January 25, 2021 through February 14, 2021.

The survey can be found at www.rappahannockunitedway.org/covid-survey

"At United Way, one of our roles is to keep our fingers on the pulse of our community's health; so, we are working to find out – with data – how are individuals and families in our region doing?" said Janel Donohue, president & CEO, Rappahannock United Way. "We read the headlines of furloughs, closures and bankruptcies and there is an obvious connection to what that means for workers, their families and their ability to meet basic their needs."

Rappahannock United Way is seeking responses from residents of the City of Fredericksburg, and the surrounding Counties of Caroline, King George, Spotsylvania and Stafford. Respondents of all ages, races, ethnicities and socio-economic backgrounds are encouraged.

"We are asking for your help to get a true reflection of our community. From the data collected, it is our hope to be able to tell what the areas of greatest opportunity are in our community," said Sarah Walsh, Chief Impact Officer, Rappahannock United Way.

As an incentive to complete the survey, which takes approximately 10 minutes, participants will be entered to win one of four \$50 gift cards.

Survey Link: www.rappahannockunitedway.org/covid-survey

For questions about this survey or the research effort, email or call Sarah Walsh, Chief Impact Officer – <a href="mailto:swalsh@rappahannockunitedway.org">swalsh@rappahannockunitedway.org</a> or (540) 373-0041 x315.

## **About Rappahannock United Way**

Celebrating over 80 years in our community, Rappahannock United Way is a local nonprofit serving Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania, Stafford, King George and Caroline. Rappahannock United Way's vision is a community where individuals and families achieve their potential through Education, Financial Stability and Healthy Living. Together, we can create opportunities for a better tomorrow.