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**United Way’s veterans transportation campaign meets goal**

*Over six hundred eligible veterans will receive bus passes for three months*

Pittsburgh, Pa. (April 9, 2015) – United Way of Allegheny County’s recent community-based fundraising campaign to assist local veterans with transportation met its goal of helping 600 local veterans with access to public transportation. Through the generous support of the community, 601 local veterans will receive assistance. Each eligible veteran will receive three-months worth of bus passes to help them get and keep jobs, get to doctors appointments, get to the grocery store, among other basic needs. Over \$180,000 was raised in support of the effort.

“For many veterans, transportation is often the missing link in reestablishing their lives,” said Julie DeSeyn, director of community impact at United Way. “We are profoundly grateful to our partners and the generous community who made donations and supported this campaign.”

The week-long campaign ran in partnership with the Pittsburgh Steelers, Allegheny County, Travelers Aid, Veterans Place, Veterans Leadership Program, and Veterans Administration.

The veterans public transportation campaign is part of United Way’s ongoing commitment to helping financially struggling families and individuals. Through its Project Serve initiative, United Way has a special focus on veterans, connecting them to a variety of opportunities that help them get back on the road to financial stability, including programs that offer free tax preparation assistance and employment support. United Way also connects veterans with resources through PA 2-1-1 Southwest, United Way’s 24/7 helpline. 2-1-1 has a full-time Resource Navigator who’s a veteran of the U.S. Airforce and dedicated to taking military calls. Additionally, through Project Journey, United Way partners with local agencies to provide temporary shelter and support for female veterans and their families, making the transition from tough times to long-term stability. United Way also provides support to veterans with disabilities in reaching their long-term employment, independence and life goals.

To learn more about how to receive assistance with transportation or to inquire about resources available to veterans, dial 2-1-1.

**About United Way of Allegheny County** – United Way of Allegheny County is a change agent and efficient community fundraiser that improves lives by addressing critical community needs. By convening diverse partners and investing in programs and people to advance solutions, United Way creates long-lasting change and helps children and youth succeed, strengthens and supports families by promoting financial stability, ensures the safety and well-being of vulnerable seniors and people with disabilities, and provides county-wide access to information and referral sources meeting basic needs.

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