

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 30, 2016
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**United Way of Hastings Earns Charities Review Council's
Meets Standards® Seal**

The United Way of Hastings (UWH) recently received Charity Review Council's Meets Standards® seal, a visual marker on nonprofit strength. Nonprofit organizations, such as the UWH, earn the Meets Standards® seal by voluntarily participating in Charities Review Council's Accountability Wizard® review process.



"United Way of Hastings is thrilled to have met the standards set by the Charity Review Council," said Mari E. Mellick, CAE, Executive Director. "The Meets Standards® seal signifies nonprofit strength, and it's a great way for United Way of Hastings to differentiate itself, communicating its internal strength and impact to supporters."

The only web-based product of its kind, the Accountability Wizard® is a time-tested tool, elevated by nationally recognized capacity building practitioners and philanthropic thought leaders. The Accountability Wizard® is based on Charities Review Council's 25 Accountability Standards®, a balance of nonprofit sector promising practices, public expectations, and legal requirements, representing the shared expectations between donors and nonprofits.

The review process examined four key areas: Public Disclosure, Governance, Financial Activity, and Fundraising. As a result, UWH has aligned its practices, policies, and procedures to widely accepted standards of accountability, leading them to greater strength, efficacy, and to the achievement of the Meets Standards® seal. By participating in the Accountability Wizard® review process, UWH demonstrates responsibility, integrity, and transparency to donors as well as the general public.

"With over 1.5 million charities registered in the US, it can be challenging for donors to decide on which causes to support," Mellick said. "Couple that with this time of the year when donors are being inundated with giving requests, we want donors to feel good about their gifts to United Way of Hastings and know that their donations impact the needs locally. The Meets Standards® seal is another way for United Way of Hastings to demonstrate to the public that the organization is a good steward of donor dollars."

UWH's full review report is available online at www.smartgivers.org, and the organization will also be listed in the Charities Review Council's bi-annual Smart Giver Newsletter. For more information about the standards and UWH, contact Mellick at 651-438-3337 or mari@unitedwayofhastings.org.

The UWH is an independent United Way that has worked for over 50 years serving Hastings and the surrounding rural communities within Independent School District #200. Its mission is to build partnerships to improve the lives of people in our community. Donations are accepted year-round. For more information about the UWH and the agencies it funds, visit www.unitedwayofhastings.org.

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