

DATE: April 16, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mary O'Coin
Executive Director
unitedwayssc@verizon.net
508.765.5491

**UNITED WAY OF SOUTHBRIDGE, STURBRIDGE AND CHARLTON
ANNOUNCES MERGER WITH UNITED WAY OF WEBSTER and DUDLEY**

Southbridge, MA—The United Way of Southbridge, Sturbridge and Charlton has announced it will merge with the United Way of Webster and Dudley. In a joint decision between the local branches' Board of Directors, the new branch will continue to provide services for all five towns from one location, with efforts focused on growing potential opportunities to connect communities with access to support services.

The newly-formed United Way of South Central Massachusetts (UWSCM) will operate out of office space at 176 Main Street, Southbridge, led by Executive Director Mary O'Coin and a team of 30 Board members comprised from both entities.

The merger, formally went into effect on April 16, allows the sharing of local resources to create a stronger network of partners and agencies.

"We are eager to help our communities by continuing to create a positive quality of life for families surrounding the organization," said O'Coin. "We have endless growth potential which we will be working toward through fundraising and volunteer work."

In the 2018–2019 campaign year, the two chapters raised a combined \$582,000, and distributed 42 different grants to support community programs at 22 local agencies. The 2019–2020 campaign has raised a total \$443,000 so far; UWSCM will continue these fundraising efforts over the next few months.

United Way of South Central MA functions as part of United Way Worldwide. United Way Worldwide is engaged in nearly 1,800 communities across more than 40 countries and territories around the world. United Way works with companies, governments, non-profits and other establishments to address complex challenges to help build stronger communities. The organization is focused on creating community-based and community-led solutions that strengthen the cornerstones for a good quality of life: education, financial stability, and health.

For more information, visit www.uwscm.org or call (508) 765-5491

The UWSCM can be found on Facebook: United Way of South Central MA