

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

UNITED WAY OF LEBANON COUNTY CO-HOSTS RESOURCE & INFORMATION FAIR FOR LOCALLY RESETTLED VICTIMS OF HURRICANE MARIA

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LEBANON, PA - United Way of Lebanon County, in partnership with the PA Department of State, held a Resource & Information Fair yesterday at HACC Lebanon Campus. The purpose of the event was to support families and individuals transitioning from Puerto Rico to Lebanon County in the wake of Hurricane Maria.

The Resource & Information Fair featured more than 50 agencies and employers, representing relevant services throughout the community and the commonwealth. Collectively, the organizations and businesses in attendance focused on addressing needs related to employment, healthcare, education, housing, transportation, food security, and emergency services.

The event was made possible by premier sponsor Aetna Better Health of Pennsylvania. Among other agencies, representatives from Aetna, WellSpan Health, and FEMA/PEMA were in attendance. The City of Lebanon, Lebanon School District, and Compass Mark also served as local partners for the event.

The Resource & Information Fair, which was open to the public, was well attended, with more than 150 individuals and families seeking services and employment opportunities during the three-hour fair. Mayor Sherry Capello was in attendance, as well as representatives from the PA Department of State and the office of Governor Tom Wolf, who participated in the session.

Throughout the event, organization representatives conducted on-site health screenings, distributed job applications, and provided other tangible services to address the immediate needs of the Puerto Rican community in Lebanon County. There was an atmosphere of community and comradery as agencies and individuals intermingled, shared information, and enjoyed homemade Puerto Rican food.

In total, the PA Department of State is holding six such Resource Fairs throughout Pennsylvania, in areas that have been greatly affected by an influx of Hurricane Maria evacuees. The locations for these events, some of which have already taken place, are Harrisburg, Bethlehem, Allentown, Reading, and Lancaster.

Yesterday's Resource & Information Fair is just one example of how United Way of Lebanon County is continuing the work started at the community forum on December 5, 2017, which established the need to provide further support to Puerto Rican families and individuals throughout the area.

The Lebanon community as a whole is coming together to accommodate and facilitate the successful transitions of individuals relocating to Lebanon County after the devastation of Hurricane Maria.

Individuals and families who have recently relocated to the area from Puerto Rico are encouraged to reach out to the 2-1-1 human services hotline by dialing "2-1-1" from any phone. Bilingual support is available 24/7 and will assist families looking to connect with services in Lebanon County.

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First Citizens Community Bank team members proudly participated in the Lebanon Puerto Rican Community Resource Fair for locally resettled victims of hurricane Maria. Pictured left-to-right: First Citizens team members Dave Leggat, James Rovito, Yaritza Ramos, Dawn Miele, and Jesus Tenorio.