



For Immediate Release

Date: March 26, 2018
To: All Media
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**Thrive Mahoning Valley Website Launches – Providing Accessibility to Resources for
Local Puerto Rican Population**

(March 26, 2018 – Youngstown, Ohio) Following Hurricanes Irma and Maria in September of 2017, many Puerto Ricans fled the island for the United States looking for relief. Since that time, it is estimated that the Mahoning Valley has seen 300 people settle from Puerto Rico.

Christopher Tennant and Justin Mondok, both alumni of the Raymond John Wean Foundation’s Emerging Leaders Program, took inspiration from an initiative conducted in Cleveland to assist those relocating here.

In response to the influx of people relocating to the area, Thrive Mahoning Valley was created with a mission to improve accessibility to basic resources and services for populations relocating to the Mahoning Valley. The Thrive Mahoning Valley website (thrivemv.org) allows users to find information about agencies and organizations across the following categories: food, housing/utilities, education, healthcare, child and senior care, transportation, employment and benefits, and spiritual needs, just to name a few. The entire site has been professionally translated into Spanish by Lorene Swartz, who has dedicated the past 10 years of her career working with and supporting the people of Latin America in the Mahoning Valley and abroad. The long-term goal for the organization is to assist any future populations that have a need to relocate to the Mahoning Valley by maintaining a quality collection of resources that can be translated into any language for which there is a need.

Thrive Mahoning Valley was made possible through support from The Raymond John Wean Foundation and the fiscal sponsorship of the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation.

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About Thrive Mahoning Valley

thrivemv.org

Thrive Mahoning Valley improves accessibility to basic resources in the Mahoning Valley by providing information on services that our team has personally verified. We've worked to ensure we are meeting our community's needs by having the information professionally translated to provide a familiar and easy experience.