

## For Immediate Release

For more information, contact Shahree Douglas, Social Media & Media Relations Specialist <u>SDouglas@UnitedWayGMWC.org</u> 414.263.8125 (0), 414.732.6412 (C)

## Herb Kohl Philanthropies supports Community Schools Initiative

[May 15, 2017] Milwaukee – United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County announced today a gift of \$100,000 from Herb Kohl Philanthropies to support the Milwaukee Community Schools Partnership.

The <u>Milwaukee Community Schools Partnership (MCSP)</u> is a partnership with Milwaukee Public Schools to transform schools into a place where students, families, staff, and the surrounding community can work together to ensure every student is successful. "This partnership is already demonstrating exciting results, but we know that this is a long-term strategy that will require many hands on deck, which is why we thank Herb Kohl Philanthropies for their generous gift," said Dr. Darienne Driver, Superintendent of Milwaukee Public Schools.

Community Schools is a proven model to increase a school's capacity to better engage and align partnerships centered on the self-identified, real-time priorities of schools and communities. The strategy places the focus on the whole child by providing academic supports, social & emotional learning, health & wellness, family & community engagement, and a safe and supportive climate. "Community Schools focus on shared decision-making, culturally responsive and restorative practices, and building a network partnerships and resources focused on student success," said Ryan Hurley, Director of the Milwaukee Community Schools Partnership at United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County.

"Herb Kohl Philanthropies is committed to Wisconsin students and believes that Community Schools is a strategy that focuses on student success both inside and outside of the classroom," says JoAnne Anton from Herb Kohl Philanthropies. Herb Kohl Philanthropies has long supported Wisconsin students and schools through classroom supports, scholarships, educational programs, and recognizing teachers and principals for their outstanding leadership.

There are currently seven Milwaukee Public Schools that are a part of the MCSP with plans to add one new school next school year.

**About United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County:** United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County fights for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in our local community. We win by Living United. By forging unlikely partnerships. By finding new solutions to old problems. By mobilizing the best resources. And by inspiring individuals to join the fight against our community's most daunting social crises. Learn more at: http://www.unitedwayGMWC.org