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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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United Community to Close Back Porch Savings will support direct services for clients' needs

Alexandria, VA (September 20, 2019) – United Community is closing its Back Porch Thrift Store effective October 31, 2019. The organization will continue to maintain a supply of goods for current eligible clients as it seeks to establish a formal partnership with a local thrift store. Cost savings from the closure will support the direct services that United Community provides to thousands of low income individuals and families in the community.

United Community started its beginnings as a trailer store operated by community volunteers in 1969. From those early days, United Community provided clients with donated clothes and low-cost household goods. Since then, several organizations followed United Community's example, opening thrift shops throughout the Mount Vernon/Alexandria area, allowing hundreds of needy families across the area access to the low-cost items they need.

"Our focus at United Community is to create a network of resources, services, and partnerships to help our community thrive," said Executive Director Alison DeCoursey. "Closing the Back Porch will allow us to concentrate on direct services that community members have counted on us to provide, such as the food pantry, utility and rent support, affordable childcare, ESL and citizenship classes, job readiness, case management and more."

United Community is establishing a formal partnership with a local thrift shop operator to ensure that clients can continue to have access to the household goods they need. Additional information will be announced in the coming weeks.

Board Chair Ken Disselkoen added that, "Our clients will undoubtedly benefit from an increase in our direct services. We look forward to building new strategic partnerships that can meet their needs."

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About United Community

United Community envisions a community where everyone thrives. United Community empowers our neighbors in need to transform their lives through wrap-around programs and services that support children, youth, and families in southeastern Fairfax County. For 50 years, United Community has been advocating for, supporting, and serving low-income residents in Northern Virginia. Learn more at unitedcommunity.org