

Ohio Valley United Charities (OVUC) is an IRS 501-c-3 non-profit organization, that raises money to fund non-profit entities, providing services to residents in Carroll, Gallatin, Henry, Owen, and Trimble counties. Originally formed in 1998 as a United Way, the group changed to its current name in 2005. *"We had issues with both the direction and funding requirements of the national and state United Ways,"* explained Ruth H. Baxter, co-founder, *"and decided to stay local and use our efforts for the charities that operate in these five (5) counties."*

In Gallatin County, OVUC annually supports the Educational Excellence Foundation, the Food Pantry, the 4-H Council, HOPE of Gallatin County, and the Public Library.

During the August 24<sup>th</sup> OVUC Board Meeting, 30 pre-reviewed grant applications were approved to receive funding for the 2022 year, a total of \$169,000.00. Due to more donated revenue than anticipated, the Board brainstormed for the greatest common need in the 5 OVUC counties to fund a special project - and decided to investigate the best avenue to provide Internet to outlying areas.

It has been discovered that VERIZON has the best program currently to provide hotspots or "jetpacks" for schools and libraries.

Therefore, OVUC has a proposed project to provide funds to purchase 10 hot spots to each of the five involved counties - 5 to each school system to be placed in businesses scattered throughout the county and 5 to each public library - for a total cost for one year of \$12,000.00. OVUC Board Members can assist with deciding which businesses will participate and providing an agreement, as the businesses would have to agree and understand that there will be cars using their parking lots to access the Internet. Upon approval, the school districts and libraries would receive contracts and equipment from Verizon, would distribute the jet packs, and pay the monthly invoices with funds received from OVUC.

OVUC needs to know if Gallatin County Public School District agrees to receive these Verizon Jet Packs for distribution in 5 businesses, churches, or governmental agencies located across the county, will accept the donation to cover the expenses, and disburse via the 12 monthly invoices. If yes, the district will receive a formal agreement to be signed.