

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**HOLD UNTIL January 23, 2012**



**Contact: Tammy Allison**  
**Mary Rutan Hospital**  
**Community Relations**  
**(937) 599-7003 or**  
**[Tammy.Allison@maryrutan.org](mailto:Tammy.Allison@maryrutan.org)**

## **Input from Logan County Needed for Community Survey**

The voices of Logan County residents are needed to help guide future planning for our community. During the week of January 23rd, a paper survey will be mailed to over 10,800 households in Logan County. Mary Rutan Hospital, in conjunction with the Logan County Health District, Logan County Children and Family First Council, Urbana University and eighteen other area agencies, organizations and businesses have come together to facilitate this 100% anonymous survey.

Area residents are encouraged to take the 10 to 15 minutes required to complete the survey and to voice concerns, strengths, risks and needs for themselves, their family and their community. The survey focuses on several areas: community issues, environment, safety, healthcare, wellness, quality of life, parenting, social and demographics and is categorized so that needs and those most at risk can be identified by region/area of Logan County.

Once returned by the February 3, 2012 deadline, each individual survey will be scanned and data will be compiled by Urbana University faculty and students. The data will then be used in a collaborative project to understand the crucial needs and issues of Logan County. The information gathered will then be used to prioritize those needs for which there is a reasonable opportunity to have a positive effect, and to develop and implement action plans to improve the health, wellness, safety, environment, and well-being of the community. The data will also be compared to state and national data and will be used to develop action plans for improvement both community-wide and agency-specific. It will also be used to assist area agencies and organizations in seeking funding to address issues identified by the survey and to measure outcomes which impact the community. The survey results, findings and action plans will be shared with the community once the results and plans have been finalized.

**more**

“Individuals are encouraged to take the time to complete and return the survey in the enclosed postage paid envelope. It is a vital tool to assist community leaders in assessing and addressing community needs and will aid in determining the population which is most at risk or in need of various services,” says Tammy Allison, COO of Mary Rutan Foundation.

Previously, various agencies and organizations facilitated their own surveys through a variety of methods. Low community participation and the high cost of the survey process were a challenge and a disappointment for area agencies. In planning for the Community Needs Assessment, Mary Rutan Hospital approached Logan County Children and Family First Council members, the Logan County Health District and numerous other community organizations, agencies and businesses requesting that they come together to do one survey for future planning efforts. “We want to be good stewards of our money and have the most accurate results and a true picture of the needs of our community, but this cannot be done without successful community participation. That is why it is vital that each community member who receives a survey for their household takes the time to complete and return it,” says Allison.

The estimated cost of the survey is \$20,000. Primary funding for the project is provided by Mary Rutan Foundation, the United Way of Logan County and an in-kind donation from Urbana University for the preparation of survey data comparisons and analysis. Several other organizations have committed some financial investment as well. Additional dollars are also available through a Health Center Planning Grant, awarded to Mary Rutan Hospital by the Federal Government’s Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Questions regarding the survey may be directed to Tammy Allison at (937)599-7003 or via email at [Tammy.Allison@maryrutan.org](mailto:Tammy.Allison@maryrutan.org).

**END**

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**The following agencies and organizations were instrumental in the creation, implementation and funding of this survey.**

Logan County Children & Family First Council

Logan County Health District

Mary Rutan Foundation

Mary Rutan Hospital

United Way of Logan County

Urbana University

The Mental Health, Drug & Alcohol Services Board for Logan & Champaign Counties

The Ohio State University Extension

Logan MHA

Logan County Children Services

Logan County Commissioners

Logan County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Bellefontaine City Schools

Bellefontaine Police Department

Council on Rural Services

Indian Lake Local Schools

Logan County Educational Service Center

Logan County Family Court

Logan County Job & Family Services

Logan County Sheriff's Office

Ohio Hi-Point Career Center

Riverside Local Schools

Tri-County Community Action

Note: a PDF of the cover letter and survey are attached for media review and to possibly print small version of cover letter in print media or post on media websites for recognition/reminder to community when they receive the survey via mail. We ask that you not place the survey on your website as surveys must be marked by census tract when returned for accurate reporting and as a part of our stratified sampling. 60% of households Logan County wide will receive a survey.