

Education Initiatives

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



United Way of York County

WHAT'S INSIDE

FOCUS	4
Ready Freddy	6
Ready Rosie	6
Identifying Quality Care	7
Early Literacy 100 Book Challenge	8
Reading Ready Corners	9
Little Free Libraries	9
Youth Court Alliance	10
Truancy Summit	11



EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS IN WORK AND LIFE.

At United Way of York County, **we are committed to getting books into the hands of children in our community.** Having age-appropriate books in the home is one way to stay on track to reading proficiently by the end of third grade, which is one of the earliest indicators of long-term school success.

Through the Community Fund, we are proud to invest in initiatives that encourage reading, including high-quality pre-school child care programs, youth development, mentoring and school-aged child care and tutoring programs. **With your support, our education initiatives ensure that every child has an introduction to reading and is ready to enter school.** In working with older students and families, we're also able to reduce the truant population and help students graduate from high school.

By supporting quality programs and consistently pursuing opportunities **to share books and encourage a love for reading,** United Way is investing in youth today and in the next generation.

Take a look at our outcomes from 2016-2017.



FOCUS partnering with PRE-K for PA

An Early Education Initiative of
United Way of York County

FOCUS, an early childhood initiative of United Way of York County, partnered with the statewide Pre-K for PA Campaign for a third year, building on the shared belief that **all children should have the opportunity to enter school ready to learn.**

Pre-K for PA launched in 2014 to make Pre-K a priority issue in the gubernatorial and legislative elections, and advocated for **increased access to high-quality pre-kindergarten for all 3- and 4-year-old children in Pennsylvania.**

The campaign grew quickly and is embraced by individuals and organizations across the state.

Through FOCUS, United Way supports the campaign by meeting regularly with York County legislators and the business community, and by advocating at the local, state and national levels.



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SUPPORTS LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

United Way of York County's **second annual Great Inflatable Bubble Race** was held in August 2017, drawing more than 1,200 young children and their families to the Southern York County YMCA campus for a 1K obstacle course race.

The primary focus for the day was **bringing families together**. The event got them outside and active, and emphasized the importance of reading with young children. Bubbles, foam, water and large inflatables filled the course, with a Reading Ready Corner stationed at the finish line to **distribute more than 600 books to youth to take home**.

Seeing children alongside their parents and grandparents having fun and ending their day reading to one another is a win for working together to build a stronger community.



1,200+ children and families

1K obstacle course race

600+ books distributed





READY ROSIE & READY FREDDY

United Way has successfully run the Ready Freddy program in York County since 2009. Developed by the University of Pittsburgh, the multi-session program provides **learning experiences for children entering kindergarten** and their families. Eastern York, Hanover, Northeastern, Red Lion, South Eastern, South Western, and York City school districts participated in 2017, and York City also added Club One and Club Two for students entering first and second grades, **an expansion made possible** through a Community Innovation Zone grant from the state.

The Ready Rosie program serves children from birth through third grade in the York City, Northeastern and Eastern York school districts, **providing family engagement opportunities through daily videos in English and Spanish**. Accessed via email or text message, the videos focus on communication, language, and early literacy skills, and aim to improve third-grade reading proficiency as measured by PSSA scores. The program began at McKinley K-8 through the Community Innovation Zone grant from the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) in 2016, and **expanded to other districts** with funding from the Women's Giving Circle of the York County Community Foundation.



children and families reached **1,700+**

school districts participating **10**



IDENTIFYING QUALITY CARE

High-quality early child care programs **ensure a strong foundation for success**. Programs that provide children with the best possible start are investments in our community's future.

NAEYC Accredited Programs in York County

KinderCare Learning Center #301284
YWCA York Early Learning Center
Crispus Attucks Early Learning Center
York Day Nursery
Early Head Start/Head Start of York County
Jewish Community Center
Bright Horizons at York County School of Technology
KinderCare Learning Center #301025
Otterbein Early Education Center
Hanover Area Family YMCA Early Learning Center

Keystone Stars 4 Star Centers in York County

U-Gro Learning Centre
The Early Learning Center
YWCA York-Spring Forge Intermediate School
Otterbein EEC-SACC Program
New Creation Station
Southern Elementary SACC Center
Stewartstown Elementary After School Center
Shrewsbury Elementary SACC Center
Friendship Elementary SACC Center
Locust Grove Elementary SACC Center
Pleasant View Elementary SACC Center
Sunbeam Station Child Care

Creative Kids Day Care
Creative Kids Day Care II
Kidsville Junction Childcare & Preschool
Stillmeadow Nazarene Child Care Center Inc
Little Lambs Learning Center
The Imagination Station PS and DCC Inc
The Imagination Station Preschool CCC Inc
Toni Newman
Brenda F. Clinton
YMCA Child Care Center
Amy A. Caudle
Hildebrandt Learning Centers YSSD Valley View
KinderCare Learning Center 301025
KinderCare Learning Center 301284
Hanover Area YMCA Child Care Learning Center
JCC School For The Early Years
YWCA of York Day Care Center
York Day Nursery
Wallace Elementary
Crispus Attucks Early Learning Center
A Child's Place Day Care Center
Good Shepherd Day Care
Otterbein Early Education Center
Jennifer H. Bryer



#yorkreads

Access to books is a **key factor in learning to read**. In many low-income families, there are often zero age-appropriate books in the home. That's why United Way of York County is committed to initiatives to get books into the hands of children and encourage reading at home.

EARLY LITERACY 100 BOOK CHALLENGE

The Early Literacy 100 Book Challenge is a pre-literacy program that **encourages families to read to their children every day**. Books are delivered to participating early education classrooms, and the children take them home and track the number of books they read, with a goal of reading 100 books during the school year.

During the 2016-2017 school year, 21 classrooms read a total of 56,248 books for the Early Literacy 100 Book Challenge, **an increase of 15,262 books over last year**. More importantly, each classroom read an average of 2,657 books, an increase over the average of 521 books per classroom read last year.



books read **56,248**

participating classrooms **21**



York Jewish
Community Center

READING READY CORNERS

Reading Ready Corners continue to reach **children who may otherwise not have access to age-appropriate books**. Bookshelves are placed and filled in offices where families might wait for an appointment or services, to encourage parents and children to read the books together. Children are then encouraged to **take a book home** with them.

Since January 2014, **7,302 books have been distributed in York County** through Family First Health offices in York and Hanover; Community Progress Council's York WIC office; New Hope Ministries in Dillsburg, Dover and Hanover; Hanover Shoe; the School District of the City of York Administration Building; and Hannah Penn K-8 School. Reading Ready Corner books were also distributed at York City Back to School Nights in August 2017 and annually at United Way's Great Inflation Bubble Race.



New Hope Ministries, Dillsburg

LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES

Take one or leave one! Four Little Free Libraries have been placed in York City since the beginning of 2017 **to provide additional outlets for distributing books**, at United Way, Union Lutheran Church, the School District of the City of York Administration Building, and McKinley K-8. To date, 1,370 books have been placed through the libraries, and United Way staff have been excited to see **children sitting nearby with friends and adults reading together**.



YOUTH COURT ALLIANCE

The Youth Court Alliance (YCA) aims to re-engage truant students in school and **divert students and their families from entering the Magisterial District Court** for truancy hearings. United Way of York County operates the Youth Court Alliance program in the **School District of the City of York** and **Northeastern School District**, with plans to expand to the **Red Lion Area School District**.

Students can be truant for a variety of reasons, including bullying, poor academic performance, and family issues. Of the YCA cases from York City and Northeastern, 66 percent live in families with an income of less than \$25,000, and 17 percent with an income between \$25,000 and \$50,000. **More than 1 in 4 has a parent/guardian who is unemployed.**

YCA includes truant students and student volunteers who help other students **get back on track to graduate from high school**. Students go through training to serve as judges, bailiffs and as jurors who will provide dispositions aimed at reconnecting truant youth to their school. Dispositions can include jury duty, attendance improvement, research, apologies, tutoring, and social action projects.



166 participating students

68.7% completed the program

97% students with no unexcused absences



In 2016-17, 166 students participated in YCA and 68.7 percent of them successfully completed the program. What's more, 97 percent of participants had no unexcused absences while enrolled.

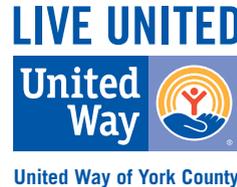
Attending YCA meetings and participating in volunteer projects gives students a group of peers to help them in school and a sense of purpose through helping others.

The Youth Court Alliance is a program of United Way of York County in partnership with the York County Truancy Prevention Initiative, York County Bar Foundation, and York County Department of Human Services.

YORK COUNTY TRUANCY PREVENTION INITIATIVE



The Truancy Prevention Initiative is a partnership between the United Way of York County, the York County Bar Foundation, and the County of York.



TRUANCY SUMMIT

In May 2017, 250 truancy stakeholders from across Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New Jersey met at York College for a day of professional development and networking. Each of these stakeholders, including **school district personnel, judges, human service professionals, juvenile probation, and county officials**, received information on strategies to re-engage youth and support families whose children were not regularly attending school.

Dr. Beshon Smith from Attendance Works highlighted the event, presenting her own personal story of being a dropout and a teen parent.



Students love to read
at York Day Nursery!

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