

# GIVING OPPORTUNITY

## How you can help

## READING PALS

Opening children's minds to the wonders of reading, which fosters lifelong learning

Nearly 33% of Florida's third-graders attending public school cannot read at grade level. And, sadly, these children are four times more likely to drop out of high school.

Right here in Broward County, many elementary school children struggle daily with reading. At home, many children have parents who work, some with multiple jobs, so there is very little time for reading. In addition, there might be language barriers, no access to books in the home and the parents might have their own reading challenges. In an effort to provide additional support to the schools, parents and children, United Way of Broward County implemented ReadingPals.

### Why ReadingPals?



In an effort to ensure more children are reading at grade level by the end of third-grade, United Way of Broward County introduced an early learning initiative. ReadingPals is a statewide program managed by The Children's Movement of Florida. ReadingPals mentors are screened, trained and deployed into schools for one hour a week, for 28 weeks, to read to a child. In addition, each student receives 17 books to take home.

During each visit with a student, the ReadingPals mentor practices oral reading, meaningful book content discussion, simple reading instruction, social emotional learning and confidence-building motivation. To help support the volunteer and the student, materials are provided to guide them through each book. Students take materials home to use with their families to reinforce these new concepts.

In the 2022-2023 school year, volunteers donated more than 9,600 hours of instruction, and over 5,000 books were given to children in Broward County.



### THEIR OWN WORDS...

*"I have been a ReadingPals mentor for two years, and I can't wait to start the school year to meet my new Reading Pals! I had two ReadingPals this year, and it is so rewarding for the children and for me as well. The children are so excited to learn, and their minds are so open to new information."*

*A first grader generally can't read for an entire hour so I bring puzzles, maps, coloring books and other learning tools to enhance their ReadingPals experience. We learn about oceans and planets and animals and plants too!*

*These students just need a little extra help, and mentors with ReadingPals can make such a huge difference in their lives. I promise you — being a ReadingPals mentor is a wonderful experience!" — Brendan, ReadingPals*



**UnitedWayBroward.org**  
**954.462.4850**

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### How We Are Changing Lives

The success of the ReadingPals program has been demonstrated in the significant gains the students obtained.

- Children with a ReadingPals mentor increased their scores significantly in print knowledge, phonological awareness, math and oral language.
- In a family survey, 92% of parents reported reading to their child at least twice a week or more by the end of the program.
- In a sample of 225 children, reading proficiency was increased by 116%. Median scores also increased five levels.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

United Way of Broward County's ReadingPals program is currently offered in only 25 schools. The need is great since the Broward County Schools system has 138 elementary schools in the district. More dollars are needed to expand the program throughout Broward County and to ensure every child has a chance.

### You can help expand the ReadingPals program across Broward County.

Your contribution will help United Way of Broward County reach its goal of ensuring every child is reading at grade level by the end of third grade.

- \$15,000** Provides support for an entire school
- \$1,000** Provides materials and supplies for five volunteers
- \$750** Provides free books for an entire first grade class
- \$600** Sponsors two family literacy events
- \$365** Provides a year curriculum for three students plus three summer reading kits
- \$100** Supplies a year curriculum for one student
- \$75** Provides three summer reading kits



### Join Others in Supporting ReadingPals:

Amazon  
Broward County Public Schools (In-Kind)  
Catherine L. & Edward A. Lozick Foundation  
Children's Services Council of Broward County  
City of Deerfield Beach  
City of Hollywood  
Fifth Third Bank  
FPL  
JM Family Enterprises  
PNC Bank  
Signature Grand  
The Carol Jenkins Barnett Family Trust  
The Children's Movement of Florida

### COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

**United Way of Broward County fights for the Health, Education and Financial Prosperity of EVERY person in our community.**

**HEALTH:** Ensuring people have the opportunity to achieve optimal health  
**EDUCATION:** Helping people achieve their greatest potential through learning and leadership programs  
**FINANCIAL PROSPERITY:** Empowering people to earn, keep and grow assets

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