

READING BUDDIES

LIVE UNITED®



A SIMPLE CONCEPT WITH TANGIBLE RESULTS.

VOLUNTEERING TO READ TO A CHILD MAKES A
LIFELONG IMPACT
— IN THEIR LIFE AND YOURS.

**ONE THIRD OF
ELEMENTARY STUDENTS
IN WYOMING VALLEY
CANNOT READ
PROFICIENTLY BY THE
END OF THIRD GRADE**

READING BUDDIES is a unique volunteer-driven early literacy initiative that connects mentors to students in kindergarten and first grade who need extra help. Students receive individual attention in a small group setting along with access to free books. The program is designed to improve students' fundamental building blocks of early literacy. By fourth grade, students have transitioned from LEARNING TO READ to READING TO LEARN. This fundamental skill of reading is essential. Students not reading proficiently by the end of third grade are four times more likely to drop out of school or not finish high school on time.

MANY CHILDREN IN POVERTY do not live in literacy-rich environments, so spending time and sharing books with role models allows these children to connect with the world of reading in a new and special way. Reading Buddies Volunteers see the importance of early education first-hand, and gain exposure to the challenges many teachers and students face in the classroom every day.

YOU CAN HELP children throughout the Wyoming Valley by volunteering as a mentor for Reading Buddies or helping to sponsor the Reading Buddies initiative. By volunteering just ONE HOUR a week, you can help children improve their literacy skills, build their self-confidence, and set them on a path to success.



**United Way
of Wyoming Valley**

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