



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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United Way recruits Reading Buddies for local schools in Lewis County.

Most people agree that a quality education is a building block for a quality life. Children who lack basic math and literacy skills upon their first day of kindergarten end up starting behind. Studies show that if a child is not reading at their grade level in 3rd grade, they will continue their academic career struggling to succeed impacting graduation rates.

Unemployment rates are higher among workers without a high school diploma, and without a high school diploma individuals are less likely to earn a viable income. Studies show that 14 percent of youth across Lewis County fail to graduate from high school on time. This affects their ability to succeed as sustainable adults. United Way recognizes this problem and seeks to increase the on-time graduation rate by mobilizing volunteers.

"United Way is enthusiastic about its role in recruiting and placing Reading Buddies in Lewis County schools," said Jeannie Roe Gruber, RSVP Director. "With the goodwill of committed volunteers, our school and community is a better place."

As part of United Way's nationwide movement to recruit one million reading buddies, mentors and tutors; a group of local RSVP volunteers have joined this effort. But more help is needed to support our schools.

"One hour a week is all it takes to make a difference in a child's life," said Roe Gruber. "Being a Reading Buddy will enrich your life too."

Help United Way of Lewis County build this program. Sign up for our Reading Buddy Orientation set for September 12th at 10am at United Way of Lewis County at 450 NW Pacific Ave., Chehalis, WA 98532. Call Jennifer Thompson at 360-943-2773, ext. 21 or email jthompson@unitedway-thurston.org.

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