

# United Way of Trumbull County

## Because Reading by Age 8 Matters

United Way of Trumbull County implemented the Reading Great by 8 Early Literacy Initiative during the summer of 2014. This initiative includes three programs, each designed to increase the number of Trumbull County students reading at grade level by grade three, with an emphasis on children from low-to moderate-income families. Since 2014, nearly 9,000 books have been provided to children who participate in one or more of the three programs.

According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation's "Why Reading by the End of Third Grade Matters", three quarters of students who are poor readers in third grade will remain poor readers in high school. Academic success, as defined by high school graduation, can be predicted with reasonable accuracy by knowing someone's reading skill at the end of third grade.



**ABC READING READY:** A two-week summer intervention program for children transitioning from kindergarten to first grade who are identified by the District at the conclusion of kindergarten as reading below grade level. Staffing includes a lead teacher and a classroom aide. Certified teachers help provide the reading support required to meet the needs of their cohort of students.

Based on a 10:1 ratio, each child receives 40 hours of instruction. Success is measured by the results of a pre- and post-assessment administered by the partnering school district. Participating students showed a 93% gain in sound knowledge, and 80% gain in word knowledge in 2019.



**READY, SET, GO:** A two-week summer intervention program for children who need a little extra help preparing to pass the Ohio Third Grade Reading Test. Teachers of partnering school districts identify students for participation at the conclusion of second grade. Certified teachers help provide the reading support required to meet the needs of their cohort of students.

Based on a 10:1 ratio, each child receives 40 hours of instruction. Success is measured by the number of students who demonstrate improved literacy skills based on a pre and post-assessment administered by the partnering school districts. Participating students showed a 83% gain in sound knowledge, and 60% gain in word knowledge during the summer of 2019.



**READ 4 FUN:** An interactive program designed to build students' confidence and creativity through fun reading experiences with the help of community volunteers.

In the spring, volunteers read a story to K-2 students across the county in celebration of Read Across America Day and Dr. Seuss's birthday. In conjunction with this event and in partnership with the Eastwood Mall, the program offers a "Seuss-tastic Reading Challenge," a contest where classrooms complete fun and silly reading assignments for a chance to win an all-expense paid fieldtrip to Dr. Seuss's BIG Birthday Bash at the Eastwood Mall!

In the fall, volunteers engage 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students by reading a select story, helping with a craft that is themed to the story, and providing a healthy snack. This event shows students that reading can be fun and not only about passing tests.





www.unitedwaytrumbull.org

United Way of Trumbull County | 3601 Youngstown Road, SE, Warren, OH 44484 | Ph: 330-369-1000 | Fax: 330-369-5555

This initiative was made possible by the help and support of the following sponsors: Arcelor-Mittal Foundation, the Cafaro Foundation, the Greenwood Foundation, Home Savings, Ronald McDonald House Charities, a partnership with the Trumbull County Educational Services, and our Donors who chose to designate a portion of their annual United Way of Trumbull County contribution to support Reading Great by 8.

- The United Way programs **ABC Reading Ready** and **Ready, Set, Go!** give our students in Warren City Schools an exciting opportunity to explore a STEM focus that not only supports content area learning, but makes reading and writing fun! – Jackie Lawrence, English/Language Arts Coordinator, Warren City Schools
- “Through the additional dollars from United Way of Trumbull County, our students were immersed in literacy rich activities this summer from the **Ready, Set Go** program to support academic gains. The Niles City School District is grateful for their partnership.” – Antoinette D’Urso, Early Literacy Facilitator/Niles Primary School Principal, Niles City School District
- **Read 4 Fun:** “The Read 4 Fun program is wonderful for students because they get to read without having to answer testing-based questions, and they can complete a fun craft without having to write. Students are able to just have fun with this program and a lot of times, we as teachers don’t have time for “just for fun” in our classrooms.” – Stephanie Tice, 2nd Grade Teacher, Champion Central Elementary School

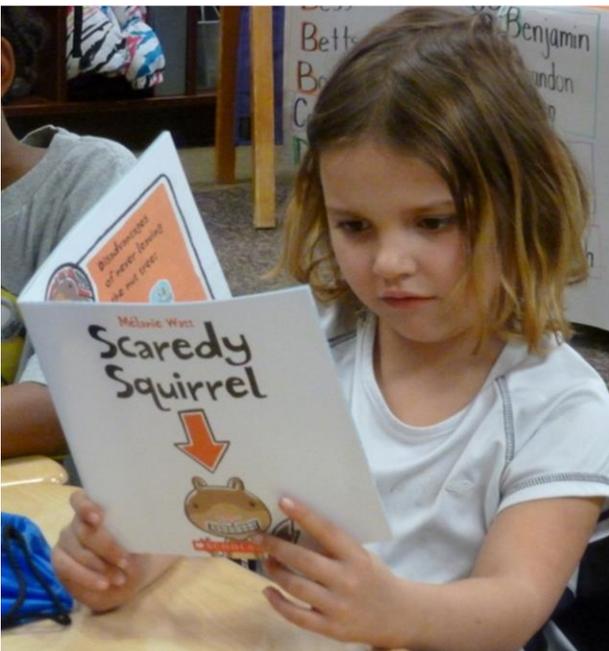
**A United Way of Trumbull County  
Early Literacy Initiative**

# READING GREAT BY 8

# Reading Great by 8

A UNITED WAY OF TRUMBULL COUNTY EARLY LITERACY INITIATIVE

Working to improve early childhood literacy so today’s students are able to read by third grade.



# Reading Great by 8

LITERACY INITIATIVE

A United Way of Trumbull County Initiative



United Way of Trumbull County

United Way of Trumbull County • 3601 Youngstown Road, S.E., Warren, OH 44484  
Ph: 330-369-1000 • Fax: 330-369-5555 • www.unitedwaytrumbull.org