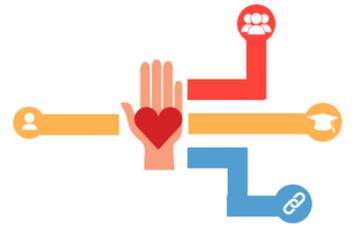


# IMPACT SPOTLIGHT: EDUCATION

Access to quality education is vital to child development, lifelong learning, and regional economic growth. United Way understands that barriers exist in our community that impact one's ability to obtain quality education, so we continually strive to address these issues by ensuring equal opportunities exist for all. We work closely with local schools and other community partners to assess the needs of students and families and strategically invest in programs that make a difference.

## UNITED WAY OF MOWER COUNTY INITIATIVES & COLLABORATIONS

### GET CONNECTED



- Dynamic, countywide, online volunteer platform
- Especially useful for students pursuing the Austin Assurance Scholarship who need to find opportunities and track hours

### COMMUNITY SURVEY



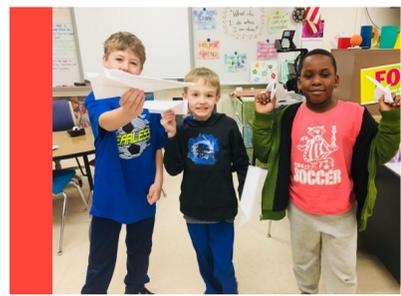
- United Way is an active community partner of Austin Aspires
- Assisted with implementation and evaluation of parent survey

### SUCCESS BY SIX



United Way is committed to helping our children succeed in life through early learning initiatives. In addition to building awareness around local issues and needs, and in partnership with organizations such as The Hormel Foundation, Parenting Resource Center, and SMART, United Way operates two programs that give all children the opportunity to start off on the right foot:

- **Preschool Scholarships:** eliminate the financial barrier for preschoolers in Mower County
- **Rainbow Route:** provides transportation for preschoolers who wouldn't otherwise be able to attend



## UNITED WAY OF MOWER COUNTY PARTNER AGENCIES & PROGRAMS



- Life/Social Skills Program (Cedar Branch)
- Girl Scouts ConnectZ (Girl Scouts)
- Our Place Recreation Center (LIFE Mower County)
- Minnesota Reading Corps (ServeMinnesota)
- Partnering with Parents (PRC)
- Scoutreach (Boy Scouts)
- Camp Just for Me (HHH)
- Science Fair Mentoring Project
- All Access Community Explorations (HHH)
- Circle of Friends Day Camp (HHH)
- Community Autism Resource Specialist (HHH)
- Peer Activity Group (Mower Co. for the Handicapped)



### IMPACT IN ACTION: SERVE MINNESOTA TACKLES LOCAL GRADE-LEVEL READING CHALLENGES

A K-3 Reading Corps tutor meets with students at an elementary school in Austin every day to help them build reading skills. Once a week, she conducts progress monitoring, a quick check to see if her students are on track to meet their goals. Data from these one-minute assessments guide decisions about which interventions a student needs and for how long. This tutor says progress monitoring day – or “bonus reading day” as one student calls it - is the highlight of her week because she gets to see how far her students have come, but not all her students agree. The tutor noticed one second grader who disliked progress monitoring had a lack of confidence and truly believed she just could not read.

They kept practicing together and within a few months, the student's attitude had completely changed. She'd tell her tutor, “I'm going to try to read this many words. More than I ever have!” The tutor was thrilled to see her student setting goals for herself – and achieving them too! Soon, this 2nd grader was ready to graduate from Reading Corps. She had caught up to her classmates and was reading not just at grade-level, but well beyond it.

*Great things happen when we Live United!*