



Take the Challenge

Be a Volunteer Reader, Tutor or Mentor

//Why is your local United Way seeking readers, tutors and mentors?

United Way of Larimer County is focusing its work on the three building blocks for a good quality of life: Education, Income and Health. The focus on education is about helping children succeed so they enter school ready to learn and graduate high school prepared for college, work and life.

United Way of Larimer County is excited to partner with United Way Worldwide's challenge to engage one million new volunteers as readers, tutors or mentors to help improve the academic success of young people in our own community and across America.

//What is the difference between a reader, tutor and mentor?

A reader reads book aloud to children to help build language and pre-literacy skills. Your reading aloud can help children build social and emotional problem solving skills and inspires them to become life-long learners.

A tutor instructs a child one-on-one or in small groups. Your volunteer tutoring can help children develop academic competencies required in school, work and life. By tutoring, you provide the opportunity for a child to better his or her academic performance, and solidify efforts toward high school, college and career success.

A mentor is an adult who can provide support and guidance in a child or youth's early years. Your mentoring allows for relationship-building. While parents are a foundational support, a mentor can provide guidance to enhance a child's self-esteem, tools to practice self-control and advice that many teens may not want to ask from their parents.

//Why are volunteer readers, tutors and mentors important?

Reading is linked to high school success. This is because children are learning to read for the first few years of school, but after fourth grade they are reading to learn. Without strong reading skills, they fall behind, disengage and often drop out.

In Larimer County, one in four children qualifies for free or reduced lunch at school. One indicator of at-risk youth is free or reduced lunch status. That means more than 12,000 students in our own backyard may need reading, tutoring and mentoring services to help ensure success.



Did you know that 313 local high school students dropped out during the 2009-2010 school year? Did you know it could end up costing the County more than \$91 million dollars? Research shows high school dropouts cost taxpayers millions each year.

Readers, tutors and mentors can play an important role in increasing academic success and engagement in learning.

//Who can become a volunteer reader, tutor, or mentor?

United Way of Larimer County's Volunteer Center, which connects nearly 10,000 volunteers a year to local projects, is recruiting volunteer readers, tutors and mentors for local nonprofit agencies. Anyone with passion and commitment to help a young person achieve greater academic success is encouraged to become a reader, tutor or mentor.

//How do I become a volunteer reader, tutor or mentor?

Your local United Way's Volunteer Center makes it easy through a volunteer referral process. We've done the research and now we're recruiting volunteer readers, tutors and mentors for the many local nonprofit agencies who need you in our community.