

CHANGE
WON'T
HAPPEN
WITHOUT
YOU

PLEDGE
TO BECOME
A VOLUNTEER
READER, TUTOR
OR MENTOR



THROUGHOUT 2010, UNITED WAY SPENT TIME LISTENING

We talked to people in communities across the country to learn more about their hopes and aspirations when it comes to education. Above all, what we heard is that everyday people are hungry to do whatever it takes to set children up for success. And while so much attention lately has been placed on schools, the people we heard from said again and again that while schools play an important role, communities and individuals have to step forward too.

That's why, on June 21, 2011, United Way launched its commitment to recruit one million volunteer readers, tutors and mentors to help students succeed. We want one million people to join us over the next three years. Anyone with passion and commitment can help a young person achieve greater academic success.

WHY VOLUNTEER READERS, TUTORS AND MENTORS?

We can't focus on high school alone. Students who drop out of high school are 12 years in the making, and it starts with early childhood education. By focusing on building kids' academic skills starting in the early years by reading, tutoring and mentoring, we can set them on the path to graduation.

VOLUNTEER READERS

Poor academic skills are often rooted in family environments in which adults don't talk a lot with children, or surround them with books and other reading materials. As a child grows, reading becomes increasingly important for understanding the world, achieving academic excellence and succeeding in the workforce or college. The foundation for reading reaches a critical juncture between kindergarten and third grade. That's when children begin to acquire the skills that enable them to find meaning in written text.

VOLUNTEER TUTORS

Tutoring – instructing a child one-on-one or in small groups – has been shown to have positive effects on academic performance and reading difficulties. The literacy and math skills that students receive from volunteer tutors can put them on the path to high school, college and successful career. Volunteer tutors can help in two basic ways: instructional tutoring and assignment assistance. Often, volunteer tutoring involves a combination of the two.

VOLUNTEER MENTORS

Children and youth need more than academic support to make it through school successfully. Mentors provide emotional support that enhances the student's self-esteem and fosters self-control. They also provide guidance and advice that many teens may be uncomfortable seeking from their parents. Mentoring can take a number of forms and include varying goals and outcomes. Some mentoring takes place within schools while other mentors work with students in the community.

JOIN US TODAY AND TAKE THE PLEDGE

- Visit: liveunited.org/volunteer
- Text the word READ to UNITED (864833)*
- Scan the barcode to the right with your smart phone



* Message and data rates may apply.
Terms: www.mGive.com/E

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