

UNITED WAY of the EUP EDUCATION EXPRESS

HELPING KIDS SUCCEED



BE A READING BUDDY

Reading to young children is one of the best ways to prepare them for the future. United Way's *RSVP Reading Buddies program* pairs individuals age 55 years or older with Eastern Upper Peninsula childcare centers and classrooms to make a difference in the lives of children through reading of age-appropriate books.

Reading Buddies will have the opportunity to volunteer once a week at a local site for one hour using recommended books including those found on the Dolly Parton Imagination Library book list. Volunteers and children will spend an hour reading, discussing and doing activities associated with the featured book.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

According to the U.S. Department of Education, children who have not developed some basic literacy skills by the time they enter school are 3 to 4 times more likely to drop out in later years. It is estimated that a child from a lower-income family is read to around 25 hours before they start Kindergarten. A child from a middle-income family ranges between 1000-1700 hours of reading. Quality early learning is a key driver of school readiness. Reading Buddies would increase the child's interest in reading, enhancing the child's confidence and verbal/communication skills, preparing the child for school, and develop a love for life-long learning. You can help give children the building blocks for successful lives by the simple act of reading. Volunteering one hour a week with *Reading Buddies* can make a difference in your community!

LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP ONLINE: www.unitedwayeup.org/volunteer

CONTACT: United Way of the EUP. 906-632-3700 ext. 4 or email RSVP@unitedwayeup.org



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Eastern Upper Peninsula

