



United Way of Rock River Valley achieved significant accomplishments in our first year of United for Literacy from 6/30/2023 to 6/30/2024:

Investment

Nearly
\$400,000
allocated to
12 AGENCIES
used for programs and
book distribution

Outcomes

10,122
children impacted in
Winnebago County

79
literacy events:
48 for children,
31 for families

63,254
books distributed
to build home
libraries

16
classrooms provided
with a dedicated
IREAD volunteer

196
professionals and
volunteers trained

FIRST YEAR SUCCESSES

The establishment of Brooke Road Community Center

- Monthly Reader's Night In activities resulted in **2,800 minutes** of interactive read alouds with adult volunteers
- Change in reading behaviors and attitudes of the parents/caregivers of participating children, **including a 40% increase in participants reading 15–30 minutes a day and a 100% increase in reading interest for those that initially reported no interest in reading at the beginning of the program.**
- Developing a “playbook” to easily replicate the program

YWCA improved literacy strategies at 86 local daycares

- **Over 600 children participated** in YWCA monthly staff-led interactive read alouds.
- Each child received a copy of the book from each read aloud to take home, along with suggested activities for parents
- YWCA staff readers were trained to do interactive read alouds by the Rockford Public Library, **increasing from 4 literacy-trained staff to 15.**
- YWCA modeled read aloud techniques to daycare providers, leading to a **substantial increase in reading time** and the use of effective literacy strategies with children in daycare.



United Way RRV is a leader in the community for building home libraries

- Resumed registrations for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, **enrolling over 2,000 children** from December 2023–July 2024 to receive free books
- **Partnered with over 30 organizations** to assist in book distribution to families
- Provided **professional development** for educator's curriculums as well as parent/caregiver engagement pieces to encourage intergenerational literacy

2023 Funded Partners

Alignment Rockford, Boys and Girls Club of Rockford, Brooke Road Community Center, Cherry Valley Public Library, Discovery Center, Durand Charm, Harlem School District (Early Childhood), Head Start, Patriots Gateway Center, Pilgrim Baptist Church, Rockford Public Library, YWCA of Northwestern Illinois