

United Way of  
York County



# EDUCATION INITIATIVES ANNUAL REPORT



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# YOU ARE CHANGING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN IN YORK COUNTY.

Thanks to your support, United Way of York County's Education Initiatives provide the support children need to thrive at every stage of development.

- **390 children** better prepared for the transition to kindergarten.
- **116,842 books** read or distributed through our York Reads early literacy programs
- **Over 1,600 school supply and hygiene items** collected & distributed
- **77.5% success rate** at diverting families from court for truancy citations

**Your investment in education is changing the lives of children across our community by setting them on a brighter path today.**



Take a  
look at our  
outcomes!



# EITC PRE-K SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



To support families with the high cost associated with high-quality childcare, United Way accepts corporate contributions and donations that provide scholarships for pre-kindergarten students. Contributions for the 2021-2022 fiscal year were provided by: **People's Bank, A Codorus Valley Company, UPMC HealthPlan, and Avalon Insurance.** Generous support was provided by York County Early Learning Investment Commission and community donations.



**32** children



**\$55,170** awarded



I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to you for making the United Way Scholarship possible to not just my family, and I, but all families around the area! I was very excited to learn of Everly's selection for the Scholarship the first time we applied, as well as many times after that. We were deeply appreciative of your support.

— An Extremely Grateful Family

# EARLY LEARNING ADVOCACY

FOCUS partners with two statewide campaigns, Pre-K for PA & Start Strong PA, to advocate for healthy child development and expanded access and affordability of high-quality early childhood education.



# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

FOCUS continued to host professional development and networking meetings geared toward private and parochial early childhood educators and community stakeholders. **Over 25 schools participated in professional development activities.**

“I truly value and appreciate being a member of this Preschool Director’s group. This group (and specifically Julie) gives us a place to share information, celebrate our successes and talk about our challenges.”

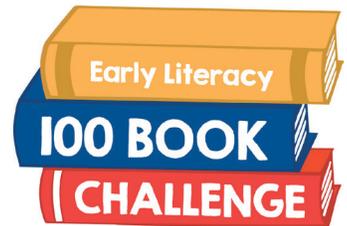
–**Tina McCole, Director, Trinity Nursery School, Hanover, PA**



# EARLY LITERACY READING CHALLENGES

The Early Literacy Read to Me Challenge and Early Literacy 100 Book Challenge are pre-literacy programs that encourage reading to children from birth through 5 years old every day.

During the 2021-2022 school year, 39 classrooms participated from Crispus Attucks, York JCC, YMCA Hanover, York Day Nursery, YMCA of the Roses, YWCA York, and YWCA Hanover.



**39** classrooms



**624** students



**110,307** books read



**“We participate in the reading challenges because reading to young children helps them to learn to value books and stories can spark children’s imagination and curiosity.”**

**– Tammy Golden, JCC Gan Tamar Site Director**

# READY FREDDY

Ready Freddy works to ensure a successful transition to kindergarten for York County children. The program was offered virtually in 2022. The curriculum topics included identifying your child's strengths, achieving goals, sharing and friendship, literacy, numbers, and social skills. Every child that participated was mailed books and materials. Weekly emails included welcome videos from the school districts, online story times recorded by Martin Library, and important information and resources for parents to support their child(ren) during their transition to kindergarten.



**4** school districts



plus **Martin Library!**



**390** students



# LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES

Little Free Libraries are strategically placed freestanding book-sharing boxes that are catalysts for improving reading and deepening community connectedness. There are currently six Little Free Libraries located in York City, Red Lion, and Dover.



**3** communities



**6** libraries



**1,220** books distributed



# REACH OUT AND READ

Reach Out and Read uses well visits at pediatrician appointments where doctors issue a prescription to read at home. At every well visit, children ages 6 months through 5 years old receive a new book to take home with them. Medical providers model reading and share tips with caregivers. Reach Out and Read serves Family First location in downtown York, Hannah Penn, Lewisberry, and Hanover.



**4** sites



**600** books



**5,188** books distributed since 2018

## LEARNING CALENDARS

In partnership with Kiwanis Club of Dillsburg, United Way of York County coordinates the distribution of learning calendars countywide. The calendar titles are Every Day I Learn Through Play, Learning is Everywhere, and Kindergarten Here I Come.

## THANK YOU FOR THE GENEROUS SUPPORT PROVIDED BY



The  
**Donley**  
Foundation



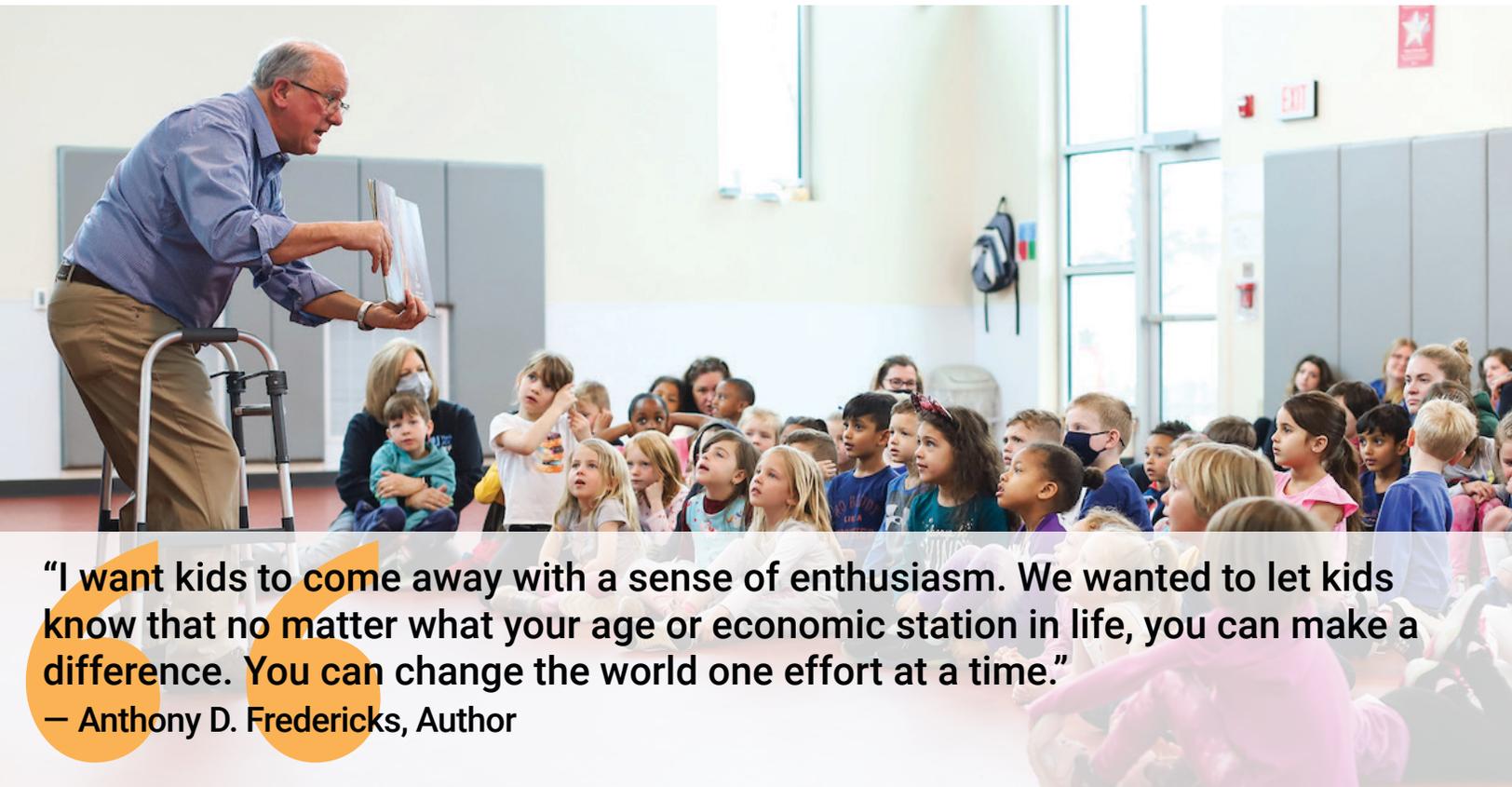
The Donald B. and  
Dorothy L. Stabler  
Foundation

Program-specific support for FOCUS is provided by Kiwanis Club of Dillsburg, York County Community Foundation Fund for York County, United Way of Pennsylvania, Campus Door, and York County Early Learning Investment Commission.

# C is for Community, A United Way of York County Alphabet

As a gift to United Way of York County, Author Anthony Fredericks and Illustrator Lindsay Barrett George created the book “C is for Community” to inspire young people to consider how they can help their communities. More than just a children’s book, “C is for Community” is an invitation to a conversation about making a difference in the world around you. The book encourages readers to become interactive members of their communities and includes localized illustrations from York County. In 2022, 1,200 copies were printed locally at Maple Press and distributed county-wide.

 **1,200** books



**“I want kids to come away with a sense of enthusiasm. We wanted to let kids know that no matter what your age or economic station in life, you can make a difference. You can change the world one effort at a time.”**

**— Anthony D. Fredericks, Author**

# TRUANCY PREVENTION INITIATIVE

The mission of the York County Truancy Prevention Initiative (YCTPI) is to reduce the truant population in York County. YCTPI is a partnership between United Way of York County and the York County Bar Foundation.

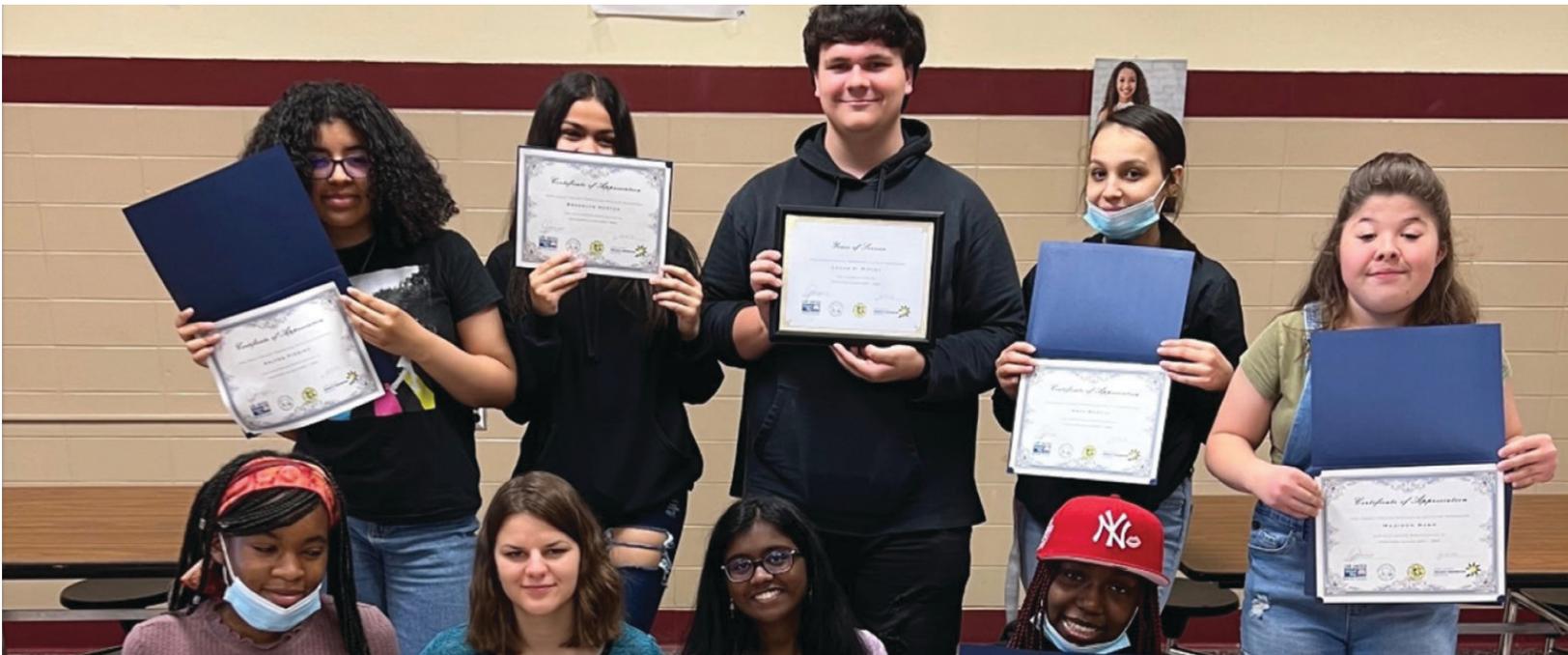
YORK COUNTY  
**TRUANCY PREVENTION**  
INITIATIVE



## TRUANCY TASK FORCE

The Truancy Task Force convenes stakeholders every other month during the school year to address strategies for truancy prevention and intervention, and offers regular opportunities for professional development.

The Truancy Task Force is co-chaired by United Way of York County and the York County Office of Children, Youth, and Families.



# ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH

In collaboration with the nationwide effort to celebrate Attendance Awareness Month in September, we encouraged the community to get involved by donating supplies such as hygiene items, alarm clocks, and school supplies. Supplies were delivered to school districts and programs within schools to support students county wide.



**1,600+** items distributed





**“Thank you United Way for your installing a Kindergarten Here We Grow Reading Ready Corner filled with books and activities for our incoming kindergarten students. This is such a wonderful way to show the importance of instilling a love of literacy during the early years of our students’ lives!”**

**— Angela Ashley, Supervisor of Instruction, The School District of the City of York**

## READING READY CORNERS

Since 2014, Reading Ready Corners reach children who otherwise may not have access to age-appropriate books. Bookshelves are placed and filled in offices where families wait for an appointment or service to encourage parents and children to read together and take a book home with them.

In collaboration with York City School District, a new kindergarten readiness and transition Reading Ready Corner was launched in 2022. The corner has kindergarten transition and readiness books, materials, and resources for children and their families. Our first location was launched in 2021 at Martin Library.

**11** reading corners



**4,715** books distributed

# YOUTH COURT ALLIANCE

The goal of Youth Court Alliance is to divert families from entering the Magisterial District Court for truancy citations and reengage truant students. Youth Court Alliance is a program of United Way of York County in partnership with the York County Truancy Prevention Initiative and the York County Office of Children, Youth, and Families.

**77.5%** of participants successfully completed Youth Court Alliance.

**82.6%** of all successful cases had no unlawful absences while they were enrolled in the program.

**89.2%** of parent/guardians said that their child is attending school more regularly.

**96.4%** of students said that Youth Court Alliance helped them understand the impact of truancy.



“ The Northeastern High School Community has truly benefited from the partnership with the Youth Court Alliance. Our students with attendance concerns have had those concerns addressed through a positive, not punitive, intervention in which they are able to understand the importance of good attendance and benefit from positive mentorship. Youth Court is also open to students seeking more understanding about court proceedings or belonging in a club atmosphere. Any student can volunteer with Youth Court and it has become a sought opportunity for many of our students. We would like this partnership to continue for years to come!”

— Ms. Kimberly Bell, Northeastern School District



# #LIVEUNITEDYORK

United Way of  
York County



[www.unitedway-york.org/education](http://www.unitedway-york.org/education)