



UNITED WAY OF EAST CENTRAL IOWA
YOUNG LEADERS
 SOCIETY

The Young Leaders Society recognizes individuals and couples aged 40 years or younger who give \$250+.

FY17 ANNUAL REPORT



957

Young Leader Society members



\$565,261

pledged by YLS members



\$36,120

contributions to RED Ahead

Our Mission

To improve the quality of life of children, ages 0–5, by engaging young leaders in addressing critical needs affecting our community.

YLS & RED Ahead

YLS designates 10% of all gifts to RED Ahead (or Read Every Day to get Ahead). This program provides parents information and activities to help their young children develop the language skills they need to be ready for kindergarten. RED Ahead aligns with YLS’s mission to improve children’s lives specifically through focusing on education.

Learn more about the local families who benefit from RED Ahead at uweci.org/redahead.

RED Ahead Results

In FY17, YLS helped RED Ahead:

- Distribute **10,426** books to **4,432** children
- Provide **3,024** families with developmental education and activities
- Screen **585** children for developmental progress
- Maintain or demonstrate progress in cognitive skills for **98.33%** of children

2017 YLS Chair



Nate Klein, Mt. Mercy University

YLS Accomplishments

Time for Art 2017

This year’s event raised more hours than ever before! Thanks to all of the local artists who donated their pieces, committee members who organized the event, and everyone who showed up at CSPS Hall for a fun night dedicated to volunteerism.

- Volunteer hours pledged: **3,789**
- Value to our community: **\$91,466**

Day of Caring

As part of United Way’s Day of Caring on May 11, 2017, YLS members held a community book drive as their service project. They collected more than 3,000 books in one day! Since then, they have been handing them out to children at public events like African American Museum of Iowa’s Juneteenth and the Cedar Rapids Downtown Farmers’ Market.