



CHILDHOOD SUCCESS



Childhood success is crucial in the early ages of childhood, and it doesn't end there. When children start school ready to learn, read at grade level, and grow up in safe, supportive environments, they are far more likely to graduate, pursue higher education or career training, and become engaged, productive adults. Strong early learning and out-of-school supports not only shape a child's future but also strengthen families, break cycles of poverty, and build a more skilled, resilient workforce for our community.

United Way advances childhood success by funding proven programs that support early development, out-of-school learning, and youth mentoring. We strengthen this work by connecting volunteers to opportunities like tutoring and mentoring and by partnering with local companies to support children through large-scale projects. UWECI envisions a community where every child has the chance to learn, grow, and succeed.

1,402

children served to access early childhood resources

88%

children improved social-emotional skills through early childhood and school-aged programs

17,951

children provided support and access they needed to be successful through after-school and summer programs



Volunteers play a vital role in helping children thrive. In Benton County, the Project Group supported Belle Plaine Elementary by cutting out 8,000 cars and 1,070 awards for a classroom point system, giving students a fun way to earn rewards and stay engaged. Across the region, three kit builds, or group volunteering projects of putting together backpacks filled with school supplies or other items, advanced childhood success. Van Meter employees assembled 150 snack kits for Tanager's Freedom School, while Cummins and Transamerica volunteers donated more than 300 backpacks filled with supplies for Foundation2. These efforts ensured that kids had the tools, encouragement, and support they need to succeed in school and beyond.