



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties Receives \$5,000 Grant from MENTOR Washington to Support Attendance Matters® Mentoring Program

October 8, 2025 – Kennewick, WA — United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties is proud to announce it has received a \$5,000 grant from MENTOR Washington in support of its Attendance Matters® program. This funding will help strengthen local efforts to improve student attendance and engagement in schools throughout Benton and Franklin counties.

United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties Attendance Matters® program works to address chronic absenteeism by fostering strong connections between students, families, schools, and mentors. Through this initiative, United Way collaborates with local partners and schools to identify barriers to regular attendance and implement proven strategies to keep students in school and on track for success.

"We are deeply grateful to MENTOR Washington for investing in the success of students in our community," said Asta Bonheyo, Community Impact Director at United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties. "This grant will allow us to continue to emphasize the importance of Attendance Matters® programs in local school, support mentorship efforts and provide support that help students attend school consistently so they can build a foundation for lifelong achievement."

MENTOR Washington is dedicated to expanding quality mentoring relationships across the state and has long recognized the critical role mentors play in supporting student attendance and academic outcomes.

"This will further support United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties and our ongoing commitment to improving attendance through mentorship", Bonheyo said, "Strong relationships are at the heart of student success, and this initiative exemplifies the power of community collaboration."

United Way's Attendance Matters® program is part of a broader commitment to ensuring every child in Benton and Franklin counties has the support they need to thrive in school and beyond.

For more information about United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties or the Attendance Matters® initiative, visit [www.uwbfc.org](http://www.uwbfc.org).

Media Contact:  
Jade Elliott  
Events & Communications Director  
United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties  
Phone: 509-521-6076  
Email: [jelliott@uwbfc.org](mailto:jelliott@uwbfc.org)  
Website: [www.uwbfc.org](http://www.uwbfc.org)