



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## United Way Celebrates 2025 Community Impact, Strengthening Education, Stability, and Opportunity

Kennewick, WA — United Way announced the results of its 2025 Community Impact, highlighting measurable progress in early childhood education, school attendance, access to critical services, and community engagement across the region.

Through strategic partnerships, donor support, and community engagement, United Way's initiatives reached thousands of individuals and families in 2025—helping children succeed in school, families access essential resources, and communities thrive.

### Investing in Early Literacy: Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

United Way's support of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library continued to foster a love of reading among young children. In 2025, the program:

- Distributed 65,028 books to children across Benton and Franklin Counties
- Served 6,461 enrolled children, ensuring they received an age-appropriate book each month, at no cost to their families.

By placing books directly into homes, United Way is helping children enter kindergarten ready to learn and succeed.

### Improving Student Success: Attendance Matters®

Regular school attendance is a critical predictor of academic achievement. Through Attendance Matters®, United Way worked with schools and families to reduce chronic absenteeism. In 2025:

- 1255 students were supported through Attendance Matters® initiatives
- 6 schools partnered with United Way to implement attendance strategies

### Connecting Families to Help: Access to Critical Services

United Way's focus on Access to Critical Services ensured individuals and families could get help when they needed it most. In 2025:

- 11,060 individuals accessed essential services like food, housing support, and domestic violence resources
- \$139,750 dollars in funding was awarded in gap-filling grants to local non-profits through United Way

### Community Engagement and Giving: Festival of Trees

United Way's annual Festival of Trees brought the community together while raising vital funds to support programs and mission work. In 2025, the event:

- Attracted 310 attendees, supported by more than 25 community partnerships with local businesses
- Raised nearly \$187,000 dollars to support United Way's mission and program work

### Looking Ahead

"United Way's 2025 Community Impact shows what's possible when a community comes together around shared goals," said Asta Bonheyo, Community Impact Director for United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties. "Every number represents a child supported, a family helped, and a stronger future for our community, and we are encouraged to see what 2026 has in store."

For more information about United Way's impact or how to support its work, visit: [www.uwbfc.org](http://www.uwbfc.org)

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