

Read with Children This Summer



Children at nine sites await volunteers to read with them this summer. Above, a volunteer reads with a child at Wesley Center last summer.

To help students keep reading skills strong, people from the community are invited to read with area elementary children this summer or to donate books appropriate for elementary-age children.

United Way Reading Adventure is calling for volunteers to read with children for 45 minutes to an hour. Those interested may volunteer once or multiple times through late July at a specific location as schedules allow.

The program is being held at multiple sites this summer: YMCA school-age summer childcare program; City of St. Joseph REC Center school-age childcare program; KinderCare summer childcare program; Best Youth Summer Camp; and the St. Joseph School District extended summer program at Parkway, Lake Contrary, Lindbergh, Humboldt and Edison elementary schools. Each program is held at its own time.

"Volunteers and children alike have enjoyed and benefitted from United Way Reading Adventure since 2011, and we hope all who would like to read with children get signed up," said Jodi Bloemker,

United Way Director of Community Investment.

Participating students receive books throughout the summer to encourage reading at home, so new and gently used books for children ages 6-12 are needed as well.

For more information or to register as a volunteer, go to stjosephunitedway.org or contact Jodi at 364-2381.

United Way Reading Adventure is a program of United Way Profit In Education®, an initiative of United Way of Greater St. Joseph. The program follows a model that has been successfully used by HOPE Outreach Ministries, Inc. for many years.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Celebrates Success and Calls for Adult Mentors

Big Brothers Big Sisters celebrates that a Little Sister in the program since 2013, Joanna Harris, recently graduated with honors from Benton and plans to attend college in Wisconsin.

The agency helps children reach their potential through a match with an adult mentor.

According to Tiffany Miller, Big Brothers Big Sisters Program Manager, "Littles paired with Bigs often improve their school work and home relationships and are likely to resist experimental drug use."

Currently, more than 60 children await a Big through the program. To learn more or to volunteer, call 671-4090.



Big Brothers Big Sisters invites local adults to register as a Big to make a difference in the life of a child. Joanna Harris, right, celebrates graduating from high school with honors and from the Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

Opportunities to Remember

June 1—Deadline to RSVP for June 7 YMCA Annual Meeting at Downtown YMCA, 315 S. 6th Street, 11:45 a.m. \$10. Call 233-9622 or email jryan@stjoymca.org.

June 2—Deadline to RSVP for June 15 YWCA Women of Excellence, 11:30 a.m., at Civic Arena. \$40 per person. Call 232-4481 or go to events page at ywcasj.org.

June 4—Imagine 11 Concert Series, 6 p.m. at Coleman Hawkins Park, 7th and Felix, to support The CENTER, A Samaritan Center. Music by: Roger Price; Kerwood Band; and Donovan and How.

June 7—Eat. Drink. LIVE UNITED. Dine at 54th Street, 5103 N. Belt Highway. Must present flyer available at stjosephunitedway.org for 15% of purchase to support United Way.

June 10—United Way Success By 6[®] Family Fun Time Father's Day crafts, activities, snack and free book, 10-11:30 a.m. at Keatley Center, 1202 S. 28th Street. For children, ages six and under, their parents and caregivers. Questions? Call 364-2381.

June 11—Imagine 11 Concert Series, 6 p.m. at Coleman Hawkins Park, 7th and Felix, to support The CENTER, A Samaritan Center. Music by Under the Big Oak Tree.

June 14—Taste of United Way with lunch and presentation about The Salvation Army, one of 17 United Way Partner Agencies, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. No cost. RSVP to 364-2381.

June 18—Imagine 11 Concert Series, 6 p.m. at Coleman Hawkins Park, 7th and Felix, to support The CENTER, A Samaritan Center. Music by: Funk Syndicate and by Tom Keller.

June 25—Imagine 11 Concert Series, 6 p.m. at Coleman Hawkins Park, 7th and Felix, to support The CENTER, A Samaritan Center. Music by The Center State.

June—Register as a volunteer to read with students 45 minutes a week once or several times June through July, conduct a book drive or donate books to be given to local elementary-age students. Call about United Way Reading Adventure, 364-2381.

June—Rally's Dunk Tank to support United Way, Fridays and Saturdays at St. Joseph Mustangs' home baseball games at Phil Welch Stadium, 2600 SW Parkway.

June (and all summer)—Shop extended summer hours at Fab-U-Less Finds (store at Northwest Missouri Community Services): Mon.-Thurs., 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 1203 N. 6th Street. Follow Fab-U-Less finds on Facebook for Deal of the Day.

United Way of Greater St. Joseph

You are invited to GIVE, ADVOCATE and VOLUNTEER through United Way to improve lives in Northwest Missouri and Northeast Kansas.

United Way of Greater St. Joseph supports 17 Partner Agencies and operates seven Initiatives.

(816) 364-2381
stjosephunitedway.org

7 United Way Initiatives

- FamilyWize[®] Prescription Assistance
- Financial Stability
- Leadership St. Joseph
- Profit In Education[®]
- Success By 6[®]
- Unmet Needs Committee
- Volunteer Center

17 Partner Agencies

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bartlett Center Big Brothers Big Sisters Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Inc. The CENTER, a Samaritan Center Children's Mercy Community Missions (CMC) Family Guidance Center for Behavioral Healthcare InterServ Legal Aid of Western Missouri | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northwest Missouri Community Services Pony Express Council, Boy Scouts of America St. Joseph Safety & Health Council The Salvation Army Specialty Industries of St. Joseph, Inc. United Cerebral Palsy of Northwest Missouri YMCA YWCA |
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