

UNITED WAY FOR SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN EDUCATION AND LITERACY

OUR VISION

Even before students start school, hitting literacy milestones is an important indicator of a child's future success in school and life. But not all children have the same opportunities to learn and grow. We work with schools in Southeastern Michigan to increase equitable access to books and literacy supports for students and their families.

THE CHALLENGE

According to the 2021 ALICE report, there are 165,000 Southeastern Michigan families who continue to struggle to afford basic needs. Studies show that students from low-income families are more likely to read at least three grade levels below their peers. Students who aren't able to read at grade level by third grade risk falling behind their peers.

OUR IMPACT

Early on, our programs ensure parents and caregivers have the resources they need to support their children academically through initiatives like Ready4K, which sends text messages with learning tips to parents. Once school starts, we offer programs like literacy resource fairs, which help parents and children access learning tools together, and MyHomeLibrary, which allows children to select books to take home and begin or expand their home libraries.

33,000+ BOOKS
DISTRIBUTED TO
K-12 STUDENTS
IN 2020-21 THROUGH
MY HOME LIBRARY

6,500
PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS
RECEIVED
LITERACY GROWTH
TEXT TIPS AND SUPPORT
THROUGH **READY4K**

8,000 STUDENTS
ACROSS WAYNE, OAKLAND
AND MACOMB COUNTIES
PROVIDED WITH
FREE BOOKS

Light the Way
LIVE UNITED



“Literacy stands out as the issue with the biggest need for support in Pontiac schools, and so we wanted to provide an opportunity to help students excel.

Having their own books is part of how we make sure they have the access to resources that help to improve the literacy skills they need to thrive not only in school, but beyond.”

— **TONYA ADAIR,**
CHIEF PEOPLE, EQUITY AND
INCLUSION OFFICER, UNITED WAY
FOR SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN