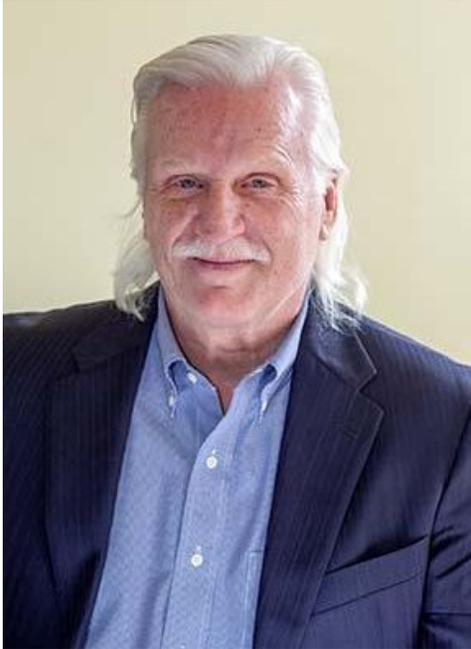




Monthly Investor Update

May 2021



Message from the CEO

United Way of Central Kentucky's funded partners across the five-county region (Hardin, Breckinridge, Grayson, LaRue and Meade) have been the lifeline for many people in our communities. From February 2020 to February 2021, our funded partners experienced 156% increase in client requests. The need for support is great and United Way is proud to help thanks to our amazing investors. Below, we are featuring:

- Dollars Invested in Education
- Summer Resources For Your Student
- A Funded Partner Spotlight
- How You Can Help

Thanks, Joe

Dollars Invested in Education Through United Way of Central Kentucky:

\$260,465

Success in life begins with a quality education. And yet, millions of children lack the support they need to strengthen their literacy, stay on track in school, graduate high school and find a career. With your support, we're fighting to shift the odds so tomorrow's leaders can build a better foundation today. With an approach to education that spans from cradle to career, we're ensuring every child gets a strong start in life, teenagers have the tools to learn and grow, and young adults thrive in the job market.

What is the 'Summer Slide'?



Kids lose significant knowledge in math and reading over summer break, which tends to increase as they experience subsequent skill loss each year over the summer. Recent studies have shown that students lost, on average, about 20 percent of their school-year gains in reading and 27 percent of their school-year gains in math during summer break.

Who is at risk?

Younger children are prone to the most learning loss because they're at a crucial stage in their development.

Children from low-income families are also disproportionately affected by the summer slide, in ways that can affect them years into their education. In fact, research shows more than half of the gap in reading scores between low-income 9th graders and their middle-income peers could be attributed to differences in summer learning accumulated between first and fifth grade.

How can I prevent the 'summer slide'?

- Make time for structured play:

Games and puzzles are a great way for kids to brush up on the basics while having fun at the same time. Whether it's a game geared specifically toward teaching kids math skills, or a learning activity that helps them brush up on vocabulary, there are plenty of ways to get children engaged and help them use their brain.

- Let kids read books that interest them:

Children won't gain as much from summer reading if they aren't enjoying it.

- Get out of the house:

Novelty stimulates the brain and promotes learning. Visiting a historic site or reading together at the park can help your child get excited about learning.

- Use your imagination:

Kids who use their imagination are also expanding their vocabularies and experimenting with new concepts. Even though it may not seem like they're directly "learning" they are still calling on skills and developing new ones. You could even play "theater" and put on a show inspired by all of the great summer books you're reading together.

Agency Spotlight: Hardin County Schools First Connections

First Connections is an early childhood program that offers enrichment lessons and activities for parents and children together. The program is available for infants and preschoolers ages birth to 5 years old with no financial or academic stipulations. The First Connections program emphasizes that parents are a child's first and best teacher and that education begins well before the first day of kindergarten. First Connections provides services to our families that includes Cradle School, Home Visits/Case management, Kindergarten Readiness, and Teens as Parents (TAP).



Meet Janay Sutton *Hardin County Schools First Connections*

"With the children of our community beginning school with less than 50% of them 'kindergarten ready', First Connections provides the quality programming and educational resources to narrow that gap by teaching parents how to be their child's first best teacher. Additionally, this connection so early in life builds relationships between schools and parents that will serve to support a child throughout their education.

Within every success story, there are individuals who are provide valuable support, hold all involved accountable and give encouragement freely. UWCK is the agency who possesses those individuals who believe in First Connections and provided the resources necessary for its programming to succeed so our community's families can prosper!"

How you can help...

All of us at UWCK invite you to do something meaningful with the information provided above by:

- sharing within your workplace
- share on social media
- pass these success stories along to someone else and celebrate the impact UWCK has on our community. We need you!

If your workplace would like to be featured in a future newsletter, please contact Hunter Roberts at hroberts@unitedwayck.org

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