



JOIN US TO HELP ENSURE THAT EVERY CHILD ENTERS KINDERGARTEN READY TO SUCCEED

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
WOMEN UNITED

WHY ENGAGE?

By joining Women United, you'll play an active role in meeting a pressing local educational need and building a better future for our community. You'll be affiliated with scores of other Santa Barbara women leaders working to improve our community, and you'll be connected to a global network of women leaders in 165 communities throughout six countries.

As a member of Women United you'll have the option to participate in enriching volunteer, networking, and educational activities. You'll be recognized as a community leader, and you'll be associated with a respected non-profit organization that gets results, delivering efficient administration of your charitable giving.

JOIN US.

Members make an annual gift of \$1,500 in support of United Way of Santa Barbara County and advocate and fundraise for United Way's Kindergarten Success Institutes and grade school reading programs.

For more information about Women United and how you can engage with this dynamic network of local leaders, visit www.unitedwaysb.org.

UNITED WAY
**WOMEN
UNITED**

BUILDING BETTER FUTURES TOGETHER!™



WE ARE WOMEN UNITED.

As an integral part of United Way, our mission is to mobilize a powerful leadership network of women to strengthen the Santa Barbara community through a focused investment of talent, compassion, and philanthropy.

Together we advocate, support and expand the ongoing educational initiatives of United Way of Santa Barbara County.

WE IGNITE LEARNING.

Our focus is on expanding United Way's early educational opportunities for local children from pre-Kindergarten through 3rd grade. Our major efforts support the Kindergarten Success Institutes and United for Literacy to reduce the high number of young learners who are underprepared for kindergarten and often don't catch up with their classmates in reading and other skills. We make a difference in the futures of Santa Barbara County's children and families by ensuring that more students succeed in school and beyond.



WE NEED YOU.

Local children and families need the support and efforts of women like you through Women United to build better futures for all in our community. Due to limited funding, hundreds of children and families are on waiting lists for United Way's educational programs. Your involvement and membership gift will ensure that more underserved children and families succeed during crucial early elementary school years and well beyond.

UNITED WAY GETS THINGS DONE.

Through United for Literacy, United Way, and community partners improve school readiness and literacy through a variety of methods for students of all ages, needs, abilities, and backgrounds. Through these programs, United Way has built a proven track record of success.

- + Over the 17-year history of United Way's Kindergarten Success Institutes, each year's participants improved their kindergarten readiness scores by an average of 50%.
- + At Goleta Union School District, where United Way's Power Reading program has been implemented district-wide since fall 2016, the percentage of students reading above grade level increased from 3% to 58% in six months among students meeting recommended usage.
- + The average summer learning loss experienced by low income children is typically three months. Instead of falling behind during the summer, 100% of children participating in United Way's Fun in the Sun program improve their literacy skills.

CASE FOR ACTION.

School Readiness and Reading are Key to Success.

- + School readiness and grade-level reading go hand-in-hand as necessary ingredients for school success.
- + Two out of three entering kindergartners test "not ready" for kindergarten in some Santa Barbara school districts.
- + Many of these children never recover their lost ground. Two out of three Santa Barbara County children are reading below grade level in 3rd grade, an important milestone for future school success and high school graduation rates.
- + United Way's United for Literacy programs have a proven track record for success. For example, Kindergarten Success Institute participants improve their academic and social/emotional skills an average of 50%, ensuring that they are better able to keep up with their classmates.
- + Young students who meet or exceed benchmarks in school readiness and literacy are far more likely to experience success in school and graduate from high school on time.

