

MEDIA CONTACT: Sandy Young, J. Walcher Communications, 619-295-7140, sandy@jwalcher.com

United Way of San Diego County Calls for 400 Volunteers to Read and Interact with Students this Summer

Readers in the Heights Initiative in City Heights Expands Ten Times, Prevents Summer Slide Reading Loss

SAN DIEGO (July 12, 2017) – Four weeks. Four sites. Four hundred students. Yes, [United Way of San Diego County](#) is going to need some help.

In the second year of the **“Readers in the Heights” initiative**, helping students prevent summer slide and be active learners all summer long, United Way has expanded it from 40 students to 400 – 10 times its size from the inaugural year. Running from Monday, July 24 to Friday, Aug. 18, United Way’s Readers in the Heights is putting out **a call for 400-plus volunteers** to help, encouraging individuals, groups and businesses to spend a few hours volunteering their time.

“Last summer, Readers in the Heights proved that with great programming and fantastic volunteers we can help our earliest learners achieve success even when school isn’t in session,” said President and CEO Laurie Coskey, Ed.D. “This year, with our rapid program expansion, we need the help of more than 400 volunteers to help young minds enhance their reading skills, build confidence and develop a love of reading!”

Working with students from kindergarten through fourth grade, volunteers can read with the children, or lead science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), art or music activities during the day of their choice. Readers in the Heights needs volunteers in four-hour shifts from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at four locations in City Heights: Cherokee Point Elementary, City Heights Community Development Corporation, Copley Price YMCA and Hamilton Elementary.

United Way of San Diego County works every day to change the odds for children and help them succeed. The organization focuses on readiness for kindergarten; early grade literacy, including Readers in the Heights; and college and career readiness, with a foundation of family stability (support outside of school, so children can be successful inside the classroom).

In the summer of 2016, Readers in the Heights provided 40 students with 2,560 hours of learning, including 400 hours of reading with adults. The children also received more than 10 books each, school supplies, new library cards, and daily lunches and snacks. The goal is to expand the initiative further each year, countywide.

To learn more and sign up, visit: <https://volunteer.uwsd.org/calendar>. Volunteers must be 16 years or older and may need a basic screening for working with school children.

For questions regarding volunteering, please contact Volunteer Engagement Manager Adina Veen at adina.veen@uwsd.org or 858-636-4163.

About United Way of San Diego County

For 97 years, United Way of San Diego County has been disrupting the cycle of poverty by tackling issues impacting children and families in San Diego. The nonprofit plays a unique role, working with hundreds of nonprofits, schools, businesses and community leaders to change the odds for children by focusing on academic success and family stability. United Way provides support outside the classroom so children can be successful inside the classroom. LIVE UNITED is a call to action for everyone to get involved by donating and volunteering. Learn more at www.uwsd.org, [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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