

United Way is recruiting Reading Buddies for Olympia School District



Most people agree that a quality education is a building block for a quality life. Did you know that when children enter kindergarten without basic skills they begin school already behind? ***Studies show that if a child is not reading at their grade level in 3rd grade, they continue to struggle, which impacts graduation rates.*** When kids don't graduate, most lack the skills to succeed as self-supporting adults.

As part of United Way's nationwide movement to recruit 1 million reading buddies, mentors and tutors, a group of local RSVP volunteers have joined this effort.

Fifty Reading Buddies were placed last year. Based on the enthusiasm shared by our school partners the program was a huge success!

But, we have a lot more students who need help!

If you agree that a building block to a quality life is Education, then sign up today! If you really want to impact change in our community become a Reading Buddy and help students become strong readers!

It's simple. One hour a week is all it takes to make a difference in a child's life. Being a Reading Buddy will enrich your life too.

Must be at least 16 years of age and commit to one hour per week for the entire school year. Reading Buddy Orientation attendance highly recommended.

For those age 16-54, go to www.unitedway-thurston.org and click **volunteer**, then click on **needs**. Scroll down to **OSD** and click on icon. Scroll down to **volunteer opportunities** and click on **Reading Buddy**. For those over 55, call Jennifer Thompson at United Way RSVP Volunteer Coordinator, 360-943-2773, ext. 21 or email jthompson@unitedway-thurston.org

Together, we can make a difference!