

Your United Way Gift in Action: July 2011

United Way impact: School Readiness



When Johnny* came to Little Knights

Preschool, he didn't have some of the very basic skills necessary to be ready to learn in Kindergarten. Not being ready for Kindergarten could have put him on the path to start out behind, and most likely, stay behind in school. Sadly, Johnny isn't alone. In fact, in 2010 only **57% of area children** met the literacy readiness benchmarks upon entering Kindergarten. Research shows that for children who start out behind, it is very difficult to catch up. Reading is linked to high school success; without strong reading skills, children fall behind, disengage and often drop out. Today, an astounding two-thirds of American 4th graders cannot read at grade level.

One important thing that we can do to give our children the best chance at a healthy start and successful future is to ensure they have the skills they need to enter Kindergarten ready to learn. That is why United Way supports programs that invest in our children: nearly **\$176,000** each year goes to support local school readiness programs like Books for Kids, Ready for Kindergarten, Lincoln Logs and Little Knights Preschool, impacting **over 7,000 children** every year.

[Click here](#) to read Johnny's story, and how Little Knights Preschool works with kids like Johnny who wouldn't otherwise have the chance to get ready for Kindergarten.

** Child's name changed for confidentiality*



Join Our Facebook Page & become a Fan!

Women With Heart luncheon coming up

The 2nd Annual *Women With Heart Luncheon* is July 27 with keynote speaker Molly Barker. To find out more, call us at 507.345.4551.



Sponsored by Body Beautiful, Leonard, Street & Deinard, Ridley, Inc., and Taylor Corporation

Getting involved: Day of Action

United Way's Day of Action got over 50 local volunteers involved in projects around the community. Check out the news and photos [here](#).



Connecting people to help: 2-1-1

Often, people just don't know where to turn for help. United Way's 2-1-1 hotline can help: just dial 2-1-1 to find answers. [Click here](#) for this week's news release.



Save the Date: 2012 Campaign Kickoff September 16th from 8 - 9am

sponsored by United Prairie Bank