



UNITED WE SUPPORT THE EDUCATION OF OUR COMMUNITY

LIVE UNITED

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Everyone knows that a quality education is a key building block for a good quality of life. A good quality of life leads to greater chances for success throughout a person's life.

Cedar Valley United Way is helping children and youth achieve their full potential by working toward the following goals:

- Supporting pre-school children in accessing high-quality, early learning programs that prepare them for kindergarten, and appropriate proficiency levels
- Helping students access high-quality, enriching out of school programs that are aligned with school-day curriculum
- Ensuring students have support and encouragement for educational success from engaged parents, advocates and mentors
- Enabling junior high and high school students to access age-appropriate college and career preparation in order to graduate equipped with skills for success

Data tells us that investments we are making are working. But there is still room for improvement. Cedar Valley United Way is strategically investing in education programs that are giving children a stronger educational foundation. We're providing mentors, preschool and childcare scholarships, learning opportunities and much more.

Programs funded in 2024-2025 to improve education in the Cedar Valley include:

Afterschool and Summer Learning:

- Power Hour - Boys and Girls Clubs of the Cedar Valley | \$12,300
- Summer Brain Gain - Boys and Girls Clubs of the Cedar Valley | \$6,150
- SHIPHT Youth Career Technical Education & Entrepreneurship Academy - One Cedar Valley | \$16,400
- Youth Navigator Program - RIYO | \$17,550
- Wise Girlz - YWCA Black Hawk County | \$8,200

College and Career Preparation:

- Creating Inclusive Career Pathways for Underserved Youth - iJAG | \$38,000
- Leader in Me - Leader Valley | \$5,000

Early Education:

- Childcare Support - Cedar Valley Preschool | \$12,750
- Quality Child Care Services - Growing Minds Early Learning Center | \$41,800
- RSVP Primetime Reading Buddies - Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley | \$5,000

Parent and Mentor Support:

- Home Visitation Program - Operation Threshold | \$28,400
- Parents Achieving Success with Support - YWCA of Black Hawk County | \$8,200

TOTAL EDUCATION GRANTS: \$199,750



68.7%

OF 3RD GRADERS IN BLACK HAWK COUNTY READ PROFICIENTLY

Compared to 75.6% of all 3rd grade students in Iowa.

Children who can't read proficiently by the end of 3rd grade are 4x more likely to drop out of school.

By investing in Cedar Valley United Way's education initiatives, we can empower these students to achieve their dreams.



Cedar Valley United Way

www.cedarvalleyunitedway.org/education

THE CEDAR VALLEY IS A COMMUNITY THAT CARES ABOUT EDUCATION.



2,500

children in the Cedar Valley received a book from our Books for Babies program in 2023.



87%

was the average graduation rate in Black Hawk County for the 2023 school year, whereas the state average is 87.5%*.



2

is the number of months of reading skills lost over the summer without enrollment in a summer learning program.

"PJ was a Wize Girl participant in the school year session. PJ's mother expressed interest in the Wize Girlz program due to PJ's social anxiety, and wanted to see if the program would help her become more social and make friends. When PJ started attending, she was very quiet, and it was challenging to break her out of her shell. With some encouragement from staff and peers, PJ began engaging more with other participants and making friends in the program. When a survey was conducted, PJ indicated that Wize Girlz helped her learn how to make friends and how to be a better friend. On the survey, PJ indicated that she learned about prevention setting goals, including, healthy relationships, making good choices, and reducing or preventing risky behaviors during Wize Girlz opportunities. PJ's pre and post tests scores improved by at least 25% for every risky behavior topic that we covered while she attended Wize Girlz."

- Cedar Valley United Way Community Partner Testimonial



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*data pulled from educateiowa.gov