

IN BRIEF



United Way of Erie County

WE'RE ON A MISSION TO CRUSH POVERTY IN ERIE COUNTY.

SPRING 2020

*Because of you, Mayar
will enter kindergarten
next year ready to learn
and loving to read.*



LOOK INSIDE

HOW YOU CAN HELP

THANK YOU FOR
READING MORE WITH
US!

AND ON THE BACK...
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

YOUR SUPPORT HELPS MAYAR GET READY FOR KINDERGARTEN

*Learning to learn before kindergarten is so important.
And, sometimes parents don't know where to start.*

Thankfully for Mayar and her mom Refel they were given a Kindergarten Readiness Toolkit, so she can be ready to learn next year. The Toolkit came from Miss Tami at Edison Elementary, a United Way community school where Mayar attends Pre-K. **CONTINUED INSIDE...**

unitedwayerie.org

SPRING 2020



**YOU HAVE HELPED
MAKE IT POSSIBLE
TO DISTRIBUTE 500
TOOLKITS.**

But, being prepared for kindergarten is important for thousands of more children in Erie County. We need you to help more of these vitally important Toolkits get into the hands of families like Mayar's.

Please consider
sponsoring a Toolkit for
a child for just \$15.



*We need your support
to help families like
Mayar's be prepared
to learn and ready for
kindergarten.*

Refel Awadha
AND DAUGHTER MAYAR

CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Mayar is a sweet girl who loves science and being independent. She can usually be found delving into the world of science and when the weather is nice she heads outside to the Edison playground or community garden – Mayar loves playing in the dirt.

If you ask Refel what her daughter's favorite item in the Kindergarten Readiness Toolkit is she will tell you: "Mayar loves the puzzle, we practice her letters and work on sounds of words together. We love them. I can't wait for her to start school next year!"

And, if you asked Refel why she is thankful to have resources like the Toolkit, she will credit community school director Miss Tami. "She is my angel. I don't know what I would do or where I would be without Miss Tami." Together, with your help, we can help all children in Erie County build the key skills they need to take on the world.

Parker's favorite book is Who Says Quack? With your help, we can inspire more children in Erie County to love reading.

YOU GIVE THE GIFT OF READING TO PARKER

Who Says Quack? Parker knows who, thanks to you. Bedtime read-alouds are becoming part of this little boy's family routine because of your support.

The book "Who Says Quack?" is one of a growing number in Parker's very own library at home.

"He loves any books with animals in them. We make the animal noises and he points out his favorites," Parker's mom Jessica shared. "We have just begun to read as part of bedtime and Parker is learning how to hold his books and turn the pages. We receive a new title

each month with his name on it right in our mailbox. We are so grateful for this program."



The Imagination Library was started by Dolly Parton in 1995, and brought to our community in 2013. The program is funded 100% by United Way of Erie County and the books are free to families.

You help us put books in the hands and hearts of even more little readers like Parker.

FACTS & figures

60%
of local children are enrolled in the program

700K
books have been mailed since the program began in July 2013

20K+
local children have received books through the program

SPRING 2020

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BUILDING A STRONG ERIE COUNTY ONE CHILD AT A TIME

Students and their families deserve the chance to succeed, that's why United Way is leading the community schools initiative throughout Erie County.



COMMUNITY SCHOOL	LEAD PARTNER	CORPORATE PARTNER(S)
Erie's Public Schools		
Diehl Elementary School	Mercyhurst University	Accudyn, American Tinning & Galvanizing, Custom Engineering, Lincoln Recycling, McInnes Rolled Rings, Reddog Industries, Smith Provision and Team Hardinger
East Middle School	UPMC Western Behavioral Health	Hamot Health Foundation
Edison Elementary School	Achievement Center	Wabtec Corporation
Harding Elementary School	YMCA of Greater Erie	Eriez Magnetics
McKinley Elementary School	Edinboro University	Parker LORD
Perry Elementary School	Erie Family Center	Eriez Magnetics
Pfeiffer-Burleigh Elementary School	Family Services of NWPA	Erie Insurance
Strong Vincent Middle School	Gannon University	Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield
Girard School District		
Elk Valley Elementary School	Achievement Center	Reed Manufacturing, Bonnell's Auto Group
Iroquois School District		
Iroquois Elementary School	Penn State CORE	Reed Manufacturing, TechnipFM, Widget Financial