United Way of Weld County fights for the health, education and financial stability of every person in our community. We are more than fund-raisers. We are hand-raisers. We raise our hands not only to lead the fight, but to reach out to people who need help. And hope.

We win when we Live United. By forging unlikely partnerships. By finding new solutions to old problems. By mobilizing the best resources. And by inspiring individuals to join the fight against our community’s most daunting social crises.

**WHY WE FIGHT**

More than two-thirds of fourth grade students in the United States—as many as six million children—do not read proficiently. In Weld County, just 37.8% of fourth grade students meet or exceed grade-level expectations for English Language Arts—that’s almost two-thirds of students who cannot read or write at grade-level. The problem is most acute for children living in poverty, children of color, English Language Learners, and children with disabilities.

The implications are profound: Third grade marks the pivotal point when children transition from “learning to read” to “reading to learn.” Children who cannot read by then struggle more with the increasingly complex, multidisciplinary information introduced in later grades.

Those who read proficiently by third grade are four times more likely to graduate from high school than those who do not. A growing body of research validates what works in teaching children to read: Well-trained tutors delivering early, targeted, evidence-based interventions to students in need.

By combining the people power of AmeriCorps with proven education strategies, this evidence-based initiative can successfully address one of our nation’s most critical priorities.
Become a hand-raiser, a game-changer. Because United we fight, United we win. We have one life. To live better, we must Live United

RAISE YOUR HAND. BE A GAME CHANGER.

HOW WE FIGHT
United Way of Weld County has teamed up with AmeriCorps, Youth for A Change, and Greeley-Evans School District 6 to offer Colorado Reading Corps, an evidence-based nationally implemented program that helps students build literacy skills and increase reading proficiency.

Full-time tutors provide daily 1-on-1 sessions with kindergarten through third grade students. Tutoring sessions occur outside of the student’s teacher-led reading instruction time during the school day. Tutors provide targeted reading skill practice in ten intervention areas such as phonemic awareness, phonics, and fluency. Students who receive Colorado Reading Corps services include those scoring “below target” on benchmark assessments administered by the tutors, and students receiving Title 1, special education, or English Language services.

Tutors are AmeriCorps members with an interest in social change; they are trained to provide reading instruction and receive a living allowance and earn hours of service toward an education award to pay for college tuition or to pay back college loans. Each tutor position requires a $10,000 annual sponsorship, paid for by United Way or another local organization. This fee covers program management and money due to the national AmeriCorps program.

“I am so grateful that through the partnership of United Way of Weld County, Colorado Youth for A Change, and School District 6, we can provide individual targeted reading skill support to students in grades Kindergarten through 3rd so that they can achieve reading proficiency and read on grade level.”
— Stacie Datteri, Asst. Superintendent of Academic Achievement, Greeley-Evans School District 6

The average kindergarten student with an AmeriCorps tutor performed twice as well as students without one.

JOIN THE FIGHT

- Give
Make a donation to United Way of Weld County to help fund the work of the Colorado Reading Corps program! Funded jointly by AmeriCorps and United Way of Weld County, each tutor requires a $10,000 sponsor.

- Advocate
Tell your friends, family, and elected officials about the Colorado Reading Corps program and how it’s making an impact in Weld County.

- Volunteer
There are many opportunities throughout the year to volunteer with the Colorado Reading Corps program schools.

Please contact the UWWC Community Impact team at Impact@UnitedWay-Weld.org or 970-353-4300 for more information or to get involved.