



United Way of York County
www.buildcommunity.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Read York County! Launched at Hanson Elementary School

APRIL 14, 2017 - KENNEBUNK, ME. The Grand Opening of the first United Way of York County Children’s Literacy Initiative: Read York County! was held yesterday at Hanson Elementary School in Lebanon. Students entered a new “cozy corner” in the library to listen to guest book readings and were delighted to see the new books. Clifford the Big Red Dog made a guest appearance and handed out “I Love to Read” bracelets.

Read York County! is a mini-library concept that includes books, bookcases, bean bag chairs, rugs, and literacy-enhancing activities. While the site is based at Hanson, the project is a collaboration between Hanson Elementary, Lebanon Elementary, The Martha Stewart Community Library and The Lebanon Community Learning Center and is open to the entire local community.

The Grand Opening featured guest readings by school and community representatives, including Barb Wentworth, President & CEO of United Way of York County; Steve Connolly, MSAD60 Superintendent; Karen Gerrish - State Representative; and Marcy Polletta, librarian at the Martha Sawyer Community Library.

“Read York County! highlights the importance of supporting early literacy and the connection to a student’s later success,” noted Barb Wentworth of United Way. “We are thrilled to be opening this first site in Lebanon and look forward to additional sites around the county.”

Lebanon Elementary Schools Principal Patti Gilley was excited to unveil Read York County! to the students and community. “Our school is currently in the fourth year of a district-wide literacy initiative. We know that proficiency in reading at the beginning of children’s school careers is an absolute, non-negotiable necessity for every student,” said Gilley. “Having more tools to help our kids is priceless given the impact that reading proficiency has on children’s lives.”

All of the resources provided by Read York County! are available to the Lebanon community during non-school hours through the Martha Sawyer Community Library. This access beyond the school schedule will extend the impact of these resources, added Gilley.

Read York County! can be installed in schools and community centers, and fundraising for the initiative began last year as United Way of York County celebrated its 30th anniversary. Organizations interested in a site installation can contact the United Way office for more information.



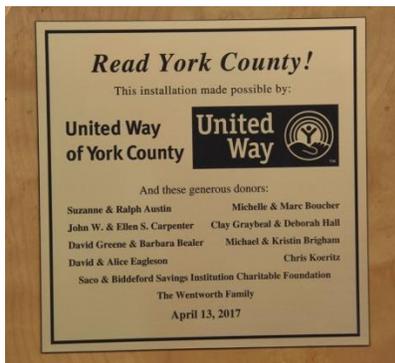
Caption:

Barb Wentworth, President & CEO of United Way of York County; Clifford the Big Red Dog; Steve Connolly, MSAD60 Superintendent; and Patti Gilley, Lebanon Elementary Schools Principal, celebrated the opening of the first Read York County! at Hanson Elementary.



Caption:

Clifford the Big Red Dog was part of the Read York County! Grand Opening at Hanson Elementary School on April 13.



Caption:

Read York County! is a mini library concept that United Way of York County has launched as part of its Children's Literacy Initiative. The mini libraries can be installed at libraries, schools and community centers throughout York County.

About United Way of York County

United Way of York County strengthens community conditions by bringing people and resources together to effect long-lasting changes that improve lives. Together we focus on important issues that impact the well-being of children, youth, seniors and families in our community.

To learn more about United Way of York County and be a part of the change you want to see in the world, visit www.buildcommunity.org or call 207-985-3359 to learn how you can Give, Advocate or Volunteer.

###

Media Contact:

Fiona Robinson

Marketing & Donor Development Sr. Manager

frobinson@buildcommunity.org

207-985-3359