



News Release

FROM: Chambers of the Chief Judge
19th Judicial Circuit
Lake County
Waukegan, Illinois 60085-4359

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Waukegan, Illinois

LAKE COUNTY JUDGES CELEBRATE 10 YEARS OF UNITED WAY'S READING SUCCESS PROGRAM

The Judges of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit were pleased to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Reading Success Program with the United Way of Lake County. The program was developed by the United Way of Lake County to help build literacy skills to ensure children can read at grade level by the end of the third grade. Reading Success targets first through third-grade students testing in the 20 - 40% in their class for reading and comprehension. Research shows that most students who are not proficient readers by the fourth grade will continue to remain behind throughout their educational careers. United Way brings trained volunteer reading tutors into Waukegan Public Schools weekly to tutor students, giving them individualized help to develop reading skills and improve performance.

14 judges from the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit are currently participating in the North Elementary School weekly tutoring program. "I have always believed that being able to read well allows that person to take control of their life, and be a self-reliant, informed citizen. Not being able to read or not being able to read well deprives that person of being truly independent. After attending the combined United Way's Reading Success program and the Illinois Judges Association literacy initiative presentation several years ago, I immediately knew that the tutoring program was an excellent way for me to help students learn to read and improve their reading," said Judge Luis A. Berrones, a seven-year tutor.

Chief Judge Diane E. Winter said, "Judges are charged with giving back to the community and modeling for students how to be good citizens. Even though we only read for a half-hour each week with the students, we see so much improvement from the beginning of the year when they can barely recognize sight words to the end of the year when they are reading confidently and enjoying the stories. It's very gratifying for all of us." Judge Winter has been tutoring for five years.

According to the United Way of Lake County, students participating in the Reading Success program average a 33-point increase over their non-tutored peers at the same reading level on Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) and Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments. The program is currently offered in nine Waukegan Public Schools, 38 classrooms, and 162 students are actively participating. United Way of Lake

County believes it can change the trajectory of a child's life. Reading Success helps ensure children are thriving, beginning in the early stages of their academic career.

For more information, visit www.LIVEUNITEDlakecounty.org/readingsuccess

To view the WGN News story, visit <https://bit.ly/31urrax>

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