

FACT: Nearly one third of Florida's third graders attending public school cannot read at minimally proficient levels. And, sadly those children are four times more likely to drop out of high school.

In an effort to ensure more children are reading at grade level by the end of third grade, United Way of Broward County is excited to announce ReadingPals - a three-year initiative focused on engaging, training and deploying volunteer "reading pals" in our community.

Partners in this exciting new program include: The Children's Movement, United Way of Broward County, Broward County Public Schools, the Women's Leadership Council, Early Learning Coalitions, and the Children's Services Council of Broward County.

Reading Pals is a statewide initiative that will concentrate on engaging students from prekindergarten to third grade. The focus of this initiative will be working with students in the lower-performing schools to encourage and enhance early literacy.

The program will begin during the first week of October 2012 and all volunteers will be trained on the curriculum prior to the start date. Once the program begins, volunteers will be asked to dedicate one hour a week during school hours (for at least 25 weeks) to read in individual or small group settings.

Training Dates

When: Wednesday, August 29
Time: 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Place: United Way of Broward County
Ansin Building | 1300 South Andrews Ave | Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316

When: Wednesday, September 12
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Place: Family Central, Inc.
840 SW 81st Ave | North Lauderdale, FL 33068

When: Wednesday, October 10
Time: 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Place: Northwest Regional Library (multi-purpose room)
3151 University Drive | Coral Springs, FL 33065

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