



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sarah Listug, United Way of Dane County
Office: (608) 246 – 5491 Cell: (608) 334 – 2143 E-mail: slistug@uwdc.org

Rachel Strauch-Nelson, MMSD
Office: (608) 663 – 1903 Cell: (608) 444 – 1129 E-mail: rmstrauchel@madison.k12.wi.us

Madison Metropolitan School District and United Way Commit to Closing Achievement Gap in Madison

United Way and Madison Metropolitan School District recommit their long-term partnership on closing the achievement gap to include professional development for teaching and support staff.

(Madison) In alignment with the on-going partnership between United Way of Dane County and Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD), their Boards met today to discuss the racial achievement gap, how they can deepen their community partnerships, the School District's *Building our Future* Achievement Gap plan, and recommitted to a set of comprehensive strategies focused on closing the racial achievement gap. In addition, United Way announced an investment of an additional \$27,000 for professional development to provide additional resources to teachers in the area of curriculum usage, engagement, and literacy techniques. This professional development will help to reduce the racial achievement gap in fourth grade reading.

MMSD and United Way agreed to continue their collaboration on several strategies. These include: keeping students engaged through academic support, early identification and treatment of behavioral health issues, providing parent support with parent engagement sessions, early education for children age 0-5 years, and mobilizing skilled tutors to work one-on-one in concert with the classroom teacher through United Way's Schools of Hope program.

"United Way couldn't be prouder to continue to work with Madison Metropolitan School District on this effort. Ensuring all students succeed academically and graduate from high school, regardless of race is one of our core goals in our community's Agenda for Change," says Leslie Ann Howard, President & CEO of United Way of Dane County. "MMSD has been such

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an incredible partner. It was inspiring to come together around accountability, prioritizing resources and building trust.”

Over the past thirteen years, United Way has invested over \$8.2 million on specific research-back strategies to close the achievement gap and has deployed over 14,000 skilled volunteer tutors as part of the Schools of Hope program. As one of our key strategies, Schools of Hope uses an effective, one-on-one or one-on-two tutoring model that provides trained tutors to work in concert with the teacher’s curriculum helping students get the additional academic attention they may need.

The personal attention given to students by the Schools of Hope tutors allows for improved academic success, supporting our community’s Agenda for Change goal of helping all students succeed academically and graduate from high school, regardless of race/ethnicity, specifically in the crucial areas of 4th grade reading and 10th grade algebra.

“United Way is a critical partner in our work of closing the achievement gap,” says Dan Nerad, Superintendent of the Madison Metropolitan School District. “United Way has the ability to mobilize people and partners across sectors and disciplines to make change happen. They are the natural fit for this partnership.”

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Our Community’s Agenda for Change

EDUCATION

- Students succeed academically and graduate from high school, regardless of race.
- Children are cared for and have fun as they become prepared for school.

SAFETY

- There is a decrease in family homelessness.
- There is a reduction in violence toward individuals and families.

HEALTH

- People’s health issues are identified and treated early.
- Seniors and people with disabilities are able to stay in their homes.

United Way engages our community mobilizes volunteers and strengthens local nonprofits to achieve measurable results and change lives.

United Way of Dane County

United Way of Dane County is creating real, long-lasting solutions through the Agenda for Change, the seven goals identified by the community as most critical.

By targeting specific goals, United Way is able to forge partnerships, focus resources and unite the community to tackle the root causes of problems. We're changing the way our community operates by uniting people to create a lasting impact.