

News Release 2013

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FREE KINDERGARTEN READINESS CALENDARS AVAILABLE TO HELP CHILDREN PREPARE FOR SCHOOL

Bellingham, WA - Peter Theisen, president of the United Way of Whatcom County, announced that approximately 6,000 kindergarten readiness calendars are available free of charge to families with children in preschool and kindergarten in Whatcom County.

Boeing has generously sponsored these tools for parents to promote early learning. “We truly appreciated Boeing’s special partnership with United Way to invest in our community and make this resource possible for parents and kids,” said Theisen.

This year Whatcom County parents and distribution sites began requesting the calendars before they had even been delivered. “There has been an increase in interest for the calendars this year. The word is getting out and parents and organizations are excited for it to come out. We are so glad to be able to offer it free of charge to our community,” said Theisen.

The 12 month September – August calendars are packed with simple ideas of how to turn everyday activities into learning opportunities for children to help them be ready for school. Additionally, they provide suggestions for establishing routines, places to go on ‘field trips’ and titles of books to check out at the library. Other resources like contact information for schools and libraries in Whatcom County along with a resource list of websites for early learning is also included in the calendar.

“We are all really busy, but parents can look at the calendar in the morning to get ideas for how to integrate their child’s learning into their day,” said Theisen.

United Way of Whatcom County is committed to promoting advancement in the community through the areas of education, income and health which are the basic building blocks for a good quality of life for all. Part of supporting education is United Way’s commitment to increasing high school graduation rates. Early childhood education has been proven to be the best investment to help kids graduate, giving them a solid foundation for life.

Kindergarten Readiness Calendars are available in both English and in Spanish and can be picked up at local schools, libraries, and early learning centers. More calendars are also being distributed by United Ways in other participating counties across Washington State.

United Way of Whatcom County has worked for over 50 years to improve lives by mobilizing individuals and organizations to create long-term change in Education, Income and Health for all Whatcom County residents. To learn more about United Way of Whatcom County visit www.unitedwaywhatcom.org or check out their Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/UnitedWayWhatcom>

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