

## News Release 2014

August 18, 2014

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### FREE KINDERGARTEN READINESS CALENDARS AVAILABLE TO HELP CHILDREN PREPARE FOR SCHOOL

Bellingham, WA – As part of an effort to increase access to early learning and promote early literacy, 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.

The project has been made possible through a partnership with Boeing, Washington State Department of Early Learning, Washington Head Start, and United Way. “We truly appreciate all the support of this project and Boeing’s special partnership with United Way to invest in our community and make this resource possible for parents and kids,” said Peter Theisen, President/CEO of United Way of Whatcom County.

This year’s calendars have updated cover art as well as updated book lists that families can get at the local libraries. 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 prepared for starting their school career on the right track. Additionally, they provide suggestions for establishing routines and places to go on ‘field trips’. 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 know that life can get busy, especially for families. This calendar gives quick and easy ideas for how to integrate a child’s learning into the day and these small daily additions add up to big changes when the child enters kindergarten,” said Theisen.

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.

**\*Images of calendar available upon request\***

### About United Way of Whatcom County

United Way of Whatcom County’s mission is to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of our communities to advance the common good through Education, Income, and Health. They provide leadership that galvanizes and connects a diverse set of individuals and institutions, and mobilize human and financial resources, to create long-term social change by advancing Education, Income, and Health for all. United Way of Whatcom County’s goals for the community involve: helping children/youth achieve their potential through academic success, ensuring

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individuals/families achieve financial stability and economic independence, and building individuals who are healthy and avoid risky behaviors. To learn more about United Way of Whatcom County visit [www.unitedwaywhatcom.org](http://www.unitedwaywhatcom.org) or check out their Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/UnitedWayWhatcom>

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