

News Release 2011

October 5, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FREE KINDERGARTEN READINESS CALENDARS AVAILABLE TO HELP CHILDREN PREPARE FOR SCHOOL

BELLINGHAM -- Peter Theisen, president of the United Way of Whatcom County, announced that approximately 4,000 kindergarten readiness calendars are available for children in kindergarten and early learning programs in Whatcom County. This marks the second year that these calendars have been produced and distributed, and for the first time the calendars are available in both English and Spanish.

Calendars were made possible thanks to the generous sponsorship of The Boeing Company. They were designed to help prepare four-year-old children for school success through everyday activities that they can enjoy with their parents and caregivers. Studies show that a child who comes to school with the social and emotional skills needed for success is more likely to do well in school, graduate, and prosper as an adult. Successful kindergarteners are an investment in our community's future.

The project is part of United Way of Whatcom County's focus on supporting education and boosting early learning.

"Parents are children's first teachers," Theisen said. "And this calendar helps them turn their child's everyday activities into learning activities."

The calendar's tasks include counting, identifying shapes and colors as well as physical activities.

"Most importantly," Theisen said. "They involve thinking and improving school-readiness skills."

United Way of Whatcom County is working with teachers in every kindergarten and early-learning-center class to make sure each child in the county receives a calendar.

United Way of Whatcom County has worked for over 50 years to increase financial resources for local health and human service needs, and to seek and invest in community-building opportunities to improve the health and welfare of Whatcom County residents.

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