



United Way of
Jackson County
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NEWS RELEASE

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ENERGIZING EDUCATION GETS CRUCIAL BOOST THROUGH GENEROUS YEAR-END GIFTS

Early Grade Reading Initiative Receives Support Exceeding \$87,000

JACKSON, Michigan [January 23, 2018] – Businesses, foundations and families stepped in with much-needed funding for Jackson County’s early grade reading initiative.

[Energizing Education](#), a program of United Way of Jackson County, received \$87,051 in gifts in the final weeks of 2017. According to Lois Dunning, Manager of Energizing Education, the generous support will help the program continue in six area schools through the end of the current school year.

“We’re so grateful for the people and organizations who see the value in EE in helping kids read better so they can learn and succeed in school,” said Dunning.

The donors include:

- [Industrial Steel Treating](#), \$25,000
- [Dawn Foods Foundation](#), \$25,000
- [James A. & Faith Knight Foundation](#), \$25,000
- [The BenjaMen of Jackson](#), \$12,051

Energizing Education targets kids from kindergarten through third grade to promote reading and literacy skills. EE uses volunteer mentors and family engagement to help kids read

more and achieve grade-level proficiency by the time they leave third grade—a crucial point for long-term academic performance. EE’s success in helping students improve their reading skills has reached as high as 99 percent. The program began in 2012 with support from Cradle 2 Career, United Way of Jackson County, and a generous grant from Consumers Energy Foundation.

“Energizing Education is a shining example of what it takes to eliminate poverty in Jackson County: bringing people and resources together to equip our most vulnerable residents to succeed for a lifetime,” said Ken Toll, President and CEO of United Way of Jackson County. “We thank and applaud those who share that vision and invest in our community’s future.”

About United Way of Jackson County

United Way of Jackson County mobilizes people, organizations and funds to create a community rich in opportunities to eliminate poverty and allow all people to achieve financial stability and success. We are committed to helping 5,000 Jackson County residents develop a pathway to financial success by 2025. Visit our website at www.uwjackson.org, or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram.

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