



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Real Men Read Program Seeks Volunteers

If volunteering 5 hours meant that you could make a difference in a child's life, would you?

New Milford, PA- United Way of Susquehanna County is gearing up for the 3rd year of its signature program, Real Men Read and is seeking volunteers. This year the program will be serving kindergarten classes in Blue Ridge, Choconut Valley, Elk Lake, Lathrop Street, and Mountain View Elementary Schools with hopes of reaching other county school districts in future years as funding is available.

Real Men Read is a reading program that acts as an extension of United Way of Susquehanna County's Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program. Men from the community who are interested in being a volunteer male reader, MENtor will read to a kindergarten class for approximately 1 hour, engage students, act as a role model and encourage the love of reading. At the end of each visit students receive a copy of the book read to keep and add to their personal library. Books are pre-selected and age appropriate. The program connects students with MENtors to provide a fun reading experience and boost early grade reading success. "Volunteering with this program is a great experience, it is always exciting to see students' faces light up as you read and engage with them. Promoting the love of reading is so important as reading is fundamental and essential to being successful in school and life" says MENtor, Bryce Powers.

In many cases schools are educating children from single-parent female led homes. Typically, teachers are female and so many children do not have a male mentor in their lives promoting the importance of literacy. Real Men Read helps these children to see men valuing education and reading.

"This is a great opportunity for students to have a positive male role model who values education and encourages the love of reading" said Robin Cobb, of United Way of

Susquehanna County. Studies show that from K-3rd grade students are learning to read, and from 3rd grade on students need to be able to read to learn. A child who has trouble reading in 3rd grade is less likely to graduate from high school. We can prepare our kids for a lifetime of success in reading and learning simply by sharing books, encouraging literacy skills, and by modeling the importance of reading.

United Way of Susquehanna County is seeking male MENTors and male or female MENTor Assistants to volunteer with the program. Volunteers will be provided a training session prior to the start of the program. All volunteers will need to complete required clearances to participate. There is no cost to the volunteers to obtain clearances.

To volunteer as a MENTor or a MENTor Assistant please contact Robin Cobb at robin.unitedway@yahoo.com or 570-465-3868 by July 8, 2019.

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MENTor, Zach Morahan reading First Grade, Here I Come to Mrs. Allenbaugh's kindergarten class at Elk Lake Elementary School.