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Media Contacts:

Kim Merithew

United Way of Susquehanna County

570-465-3868

kim.unitedway@yahoo.com

Florence Doller

NBT Bank

607.337.6118

fdoller@nbtbank.com

The “Summer Slide” didn’t stand a chance with this group of young students:

Literacy Kits from United Way of Susquehanna County and NBT Bank Curb Summer Learning Slide

New Milford, PA (July 17, 2019) – Preschoolers from local [Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts](#) classrooms at Forest City School District, Mountain View School District and Treasure House Child Development Center are ready for kindergarten thanks to the Summer Learning Kits they received from United Way of Susquehanna County and NBT Bank at the beginning of summer. The kits were developed and distributed to help reduce the “summer slide” in reading and learning.

The learning kits, which were assembled by volunteers as part of Day of Caring, contained books and other reading and learning items which can spur the little one’s imagination and let the stories they are reading come to life! Funding for the Learning Kits was generously provided by NBT Bank.

“The summer slide doesn’t just affect our older students who have learned advanced math, history and science – students of all ages lose an average of one month of learning if they aren’t kept engaged over the summer,” said Karen Voigt, Superintendent with Mountain View School District.

Kim Merithew, Director of Corporate and Community Giving at United Way of Susquehanna County, said: “This initiative has been so important to our mission of helping children and their families do well by focusing on Education, Income and Health – the building blocks for a good quality of life and strong community.

“Supporting youth literacy has been a significant area of focus for NBT Bank for many years,” said Kim Smith, NBT Bank Vice President and Susquehanna Retail Market Manager. NBT Bank offers its [Strive® Financial Literacy](#) program in Pennsylvania and across its six-state footprint. “We jumped at the opportunity to partner with United Way to bring this initiative to our local children and their families to place emphasis and forward momentum on early childhood education.”

In addition, United Way of Pennsylvania (UWP) recently announced its new role as a principal partner with the [Pre-K for PA](#) campaign, as part of its long-standing support of Pre-K for PA’s efforts. The campaign’s vision is to ensure all children are able to enter school ready to succeed by making high-quality Pre-K accessible to every 3-and 4-year old in Pennsylvania.

About the United Way

Through its “Helping Children Do Well” movement, the United Way of Susquehanna County is focused on making lasting change by investing in local community agencies and programs which support academic readiness, mentorship, childhood wellness and family stability. In addition, United Way of Susquehanna County is funding agencies that provide safety net services to individuals and families in need.

About NBT Bank

NBT Bank offers personal banking, business banking and wealth management services from locations in six states, including New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine. The bank and its parent company, NBT Bancorp, are headquartered in Norwich, NY. NBT Bancorp had assets of \$9.5 billion as of June 30, 2018, and is traded on the Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol NBTB. More information about NBT is available online at www.nbtbank.com. Member FDIC.

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