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United Way of Northwest Arkansas Awards Grants to Fight for Children Living in Poverty

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Lowell, ARK. – On, June 5, 2017 the United Way of Northwest Arkansas awarded 38 two-year grants totaling \$2.9 million over that period as part of their Children Living in Poverty Initiative. Working with local nonprofit organizations and making strategic investments at critical points in a child’s life, the United Way seeks to provide stability today and prosperity tomorrow in the children living in poverty in Northwest Arkansas.

Grants were awarded across seven focus areas: Advocates, Child Wellbeing, Youth Homelessness, Parents as First Teachers, Quality Out-of-School Time, Youth Connectedness, and Developing Self-Sufficiency. The selection of grant awards was conducted by seven grant panels consisting of 34 volunteers representing a cross-section of the community including social service professionals, academics specializing in public affairs and social work, and senior business leaders.

“The guidance and support by United Way of Northwest Arkansas leadership were noted throughout the letter of intent and grant application processes, making it less intimidating and providing a much-needed and constructive structure.”

Merritt Royal, Development Director
Northwest Arkansas Women’s Shelter

“Future U will empower teens not just to dream of a successful life, but to prepare to make their dreams become realities by helping them develop self-sufficiency and teaching life skills that will allow them to succeed as adults. We appreciate the support of the United Way in helping to make this life changing program possible.”

Eric Schuldt
Chief Professional Officer
Donald W. Reynolds Boys & Girls Club

The panelists awarded 38 grants to 31 organizations:

Organizations	Program Name	Funding Focus Area
CASA of Northwest Arkansas	A Voice Out of Poverty	Advocates
Legal Aid	Child Poverty Law Project	Advocates
Children's Advocacy Center	Emergency Meal Care Kits for Children & Families	Advocates
Restoration Ministries	Restoration Village Animal-Assisted Interaction	Advocates
Apple Seeds	Farm to Table Cooking Classes	Child Wellbeing
Northwest Arkansas Women's Shelter	Domestic Violence Intervention: Creating Safe Zones in School for Children who are Victims of Domestic Violence	Child Wellbeing
Peace at Home Family Shelter	Children's Emergency Services Program	Child Wellbeing
Samaritan Community Center	SnackPacks for Kids	Child Wellbeing
Sunshine School and Development Center	Behavioral And Mental Health Support Program	Child Wellbeing
WelcomeHealth	Access to No-Cost Medical & Dental Care for Uninsured Children from Low-Income Households	Child Wellbeing
Compassion Ministries	Compassion House	Developing Self-Sufficiency
Donald W. Reynolds Boys & Girls Club	FUTURE U! Dream.Plan.Succeed.	Developing Self-Sufficiency
Genesis House	Family JumpStart	Developing Self-Sufficiency
Lincoln Consolidated Schools	Lincoln Alliance for Outreach Opportunities	Developing Self-Sufficiency
Prairie Grove School District	Conversion Charter CNA Program	Developing Self-Sufficiency
U of A School of Social Work	Child Savings Accounts: An Asset Development Strategy for Cultivating a Pathway to Prosperity for Marshallese Children in NWA	Developing Self-Sufficiency
Prism Education Center	Trailblazers Afterschool Program	Out of School Time
Prism Education Center	Camp Prism	Out of School Time
Boys & Girls Club of Western Benton Co.	Decatur Extension of the B&GC	Out of School Time

Helen R. Walton Enrichment Center	Early Childhood Initiatives Center, Business & Leadership Training	Out of School Time
Helen R. Walton Enrichment Center	Early Childhood Initiatives Center, Early Childhood Education	Out of School Time
Boys & Girls Club of Benton County	OST Youth Development for NWA Families	Out of School Time
Girl Scouts Diamonds of AR, OK & TX	School & Juvenile Justice Program	Out of School Time
TheatreSquared	The IMPACT Project: Individuals Managing Problems and Creating Theatre	Out of School Time
Bentonville Schools, Child Enrichment Services	Parents as Teachers	Parents as First Teachers
EOA Head Start	EOA Children's Services	Parents as First Teachers
Family Network	Nurturing New Lives	Parents as First Teachers
Helen R. Walton Enrichment Center	Early Childhood Edu for Children Living in Poverty	Parents as First Teachers
Helen R. Walton Enrichment Center	Dolly Parton Imagination Library	Parents as First Teachers
Ozark Literacy Council	Northwest Arkansas Tenacious Reading Project	Parents as First Teachers
Sunshine School and Development Center	Sunshine Parents as Teachers	Parents as First Teachers
Bentonville Public Schools	R.O.A.R.	Youth Connectedness
Big Brothers/Big Sisters of NWA	Mentoring Matters: New Match Project	Youth Connectedness
Big Brothers/Big Sisters of NWA	Siloam Springs Youth Mentoring Program	Youth Connectedness
Teen Action & Support Center	The Station	Youth Connectedness
Havenwood	Havenwood Youth Homelessness Program	Youth Homelessness
Teen Action & Support Center	Teen Thrive	Youth Homelessness
Youth Bridge	The Zion Project	Youth Homelessness

These grants continue the fulfillment of a promise made by the United Way of Northwest Arkansas in 2015 to launch a funding initiative focused on lifting children out of poverty and providing them with a pathway to a better life. Last year, the United Way granted a total of \$770,000 to 18 organization through First Step Funding.

The United Way of Northwest Arkansas mission is to unite our community to empower people and improve the lives through volunteers, advocates and giving.

Bold Goal: To Provide Every Child in NWA a Pathway Out of Poverty! For more information, visit unitedwaynwa.org.