We all have a stake in making sure today’s children grow up with the educational support and opportunities necessary to learn and succeed to their fullest potential. To achieve this, it is critical that our community commits to children’s education. Won’t you join us?
CHAMPION OF CHILDREN:
Helping Children and Youth Succeed

When families, volunteers, experts, investors and organizations unite in research, advocacy, partnerships and fundraising efforts, we can achieve our community’s vision and goals for education.

Champion of Children’s MISSION:
To promote awareness of education issues, inspire donors to invest in work that helps children in central Ohio succeed and to mobilize individuals to support education efforts.

Champion of Children supports and promotes United Way of Central Ohio’s community results:
- Children will enter kindergarten physically, emotionally, socially and cognitively ready to succeed.
- Youth graduate from high school well-prepared for additional learning and productive careers.

WHY WE NEED Champions of Children:

Kindergarten Readiness: Nearly 40% of Columbus City School students entering kindergarten don’t know that a story has a beginning, middle and end. More than 75% don’t know the letters of the alphabet.

High School Graduation: Each year, at least 1 in 10 students fails to graduate from high school in Franklin County’s 16 public school districts. Last year’s high school dropouts lost more than $5 million in estimated earnings in one year alone.
Your Champion of Children INVESTMENT

By providing a platform for new ideas, effective approaches, collaboration and, most importantly, for action, Champion of Children motivates and aligns efforts to improve education in our community. Your investment supports:

- **Educational programs and partnerships** - Funding for innovative, effective programs and initiatives focused on helping to prepare our youth for educational and career success.


- **Online Education Journal** - Educates the community through the dissemination of news, research and information relevant to education in central Ohio. To sign up for the journal, go to liveunitedcentralohio.org/champion-of-children.

- **Year-round community outreach, engagement and advocacy** - Includes events, activities and volunteer opportunities that increase awareness and commitment to advancing our children’s education, build advocacy efforts for those too young to speak for themselves, and connect willing individuals with ways to help children and youth in our community.

- **Annual Champion of Children individual and nonprofit organization awards** - Awards honor an individual and organization who have exhibited a passion for education and children through their actions, and have had a deep, far-reaching and lasting impact on the lives of children in central Ohio.

- **Annual Champion of Children Signature Event** - Annual event bringing the best and brightest leaders in education to central Ohio to highlight best practices and key education issues and opportunities. The event also includes the presentation of the, Champions of Children awards. Join us for our 2014 Signature Event on February 11, 2014.

“Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.”

— Marian Wright Edelman
Champion of Children **AIMs to promote...**

### Awareness
- A leading resource for individuals interested in supporting education and obtaining information about local, national and world education news, reports and statistics
- A respected voice on education issues

### Investment
- A concrete pathway for donors of all levels to financially support United Way’s education efforts
- A leader in supporting innovative and effective programs and an investor in the education work of United Way of Central Ohio and the central Ohio community

### Mobilization
- A key leader in informing and motivating individuals to take action to make a difference in the lives of children
- A facilitator of education-related volunteer opportunities that motivate individuals to remain engaged

**YOU CAN BE PART OF THE CHANGE**

With a specific gift to Champion of Children, you support a broad array of community efforts linked to United Way’s work in education. Be a champion, and help young children enter kindergarten ready to succeed and youth graduate from high school well-prepared for additional learning and successful careers.