

UNITED WAY OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

SERVING WALLA WALLA, COLUMBIA, GARFIELD, UMATILLA, MORROW, WALLOWA, UNION, & BAKER COUNTIES



UNITED WAY
Blue Mountains

DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

The program gifts one high-quality, age-appropriate book to enrolled children aged 0-5 years old every month, inspiring a love of reading for children and their families.

ENROLLED CHILDREN:

2,600+

Serving Walla Walla,
Garfield, Columbia and
Umatilla Counties

\$68,380+

Invested into gifting books
in 2024

ADOPT-A-STUDENT

Opens doors for students, ensuring they can fully participate in school programs, activities, and academic opportunities regardless of financial limitations. Together, we strive to empower students to live up to their full potential.

IMPACT AREAS:

- Drivers ed classes
- Sports shoes
- CNA exam fees
- School-sponsored events
- School instruments
- School-based activities
- And so much more

\$12,900+

Invested into our local
students

PROGRAM PARTNERS



WAHI
BLUE DEVILS



COLLEGE PLACE
HAWKS



LA GRANDE
TIGERS



DAYTON
BULLDOGS



ATHENA WESTON
TIGERSCOTTS



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2023 -2024 GRANT CYCLES

We mobilize people and resources to increase access to healthy communities, youth opportunity, community resiliency and financial security, so that all can thrive.

Through our grant making process, we gift funds to local non-profit organizations to help support their missions in our local region.

Mini Grant Recipients - Fall Cycle

Blue Mtn. Therapeutic Riding
Walla Walla Senior Citizens Center, Inc.
Community Council
Power House Theatre
Plus Delta After School Studios
Friends of Children of Walla Walla
Walla Walla Valley Disability Network
College Place High School
Trilogy Recovery Community
Cardinal's Nest

Mini Grant Recipients - Spring Cycle

Power House Theater
Tabitha's Closet
Friends of Children of Walla Walla
Lillie Rice Center, Inc
SMART Reading- Wallowa & Baker
Walla Walla Symphony
Walla Walla Senior Citizens Center, Inc
YWCA of Walla Walla

Campus Life
Walla Walla YMCA
Pilot Rock Meals on Wheels
Liberty Theatre
Blue Mountain Action Council
Akin
Wallowa County Sheriff Search & Rescue
McKay Creek Parent's Club
The Salvation Army

Community Grant Recipients - Annual Cycle

Campus Life
The Salvation Army
SMART Reading



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UNITED WAY
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2023-2024 CAMPAIGN SEASON

By partnering with United Way through workplace campaigns, businesses and employees directly contribute to strengthening our local communities.



Your generosity funds crucial programs,
improves lives, and creates sustainable change.

Thank you to our campaign participants:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| AgriNorthwest | City of Pendleton | Nationwide |
| Baker Boyer Bank | City of Walla Walla | Nelson Irrigation |
| Bi-Mart | College Place School District | NextEra Energy |
| Blue Mtn. Community Found. | Columbia REA | Pendleton School District |
| Banner Bank | Credits Incorporated | Pendleton Woolen Mills |
| Blue Mtn. Comm. College | Grande Ronde Hospital | Pepsi Cola Bottling |
| CAPECO | La Grande School District | Portland General Electric |
| City of College Place | Lamb Weston | Software Planning |
| Dayton School District | Milton-Freewater School District | Tyson Fresh Meats |
| Domestic Violence Services | Morrow County | Putt Putt Pour |
| Enterprise Holdings | Morrow County Health District | Wildhorse Resort & Casino |

THANK YOU TO OUR ANNUAL SPONSORS!



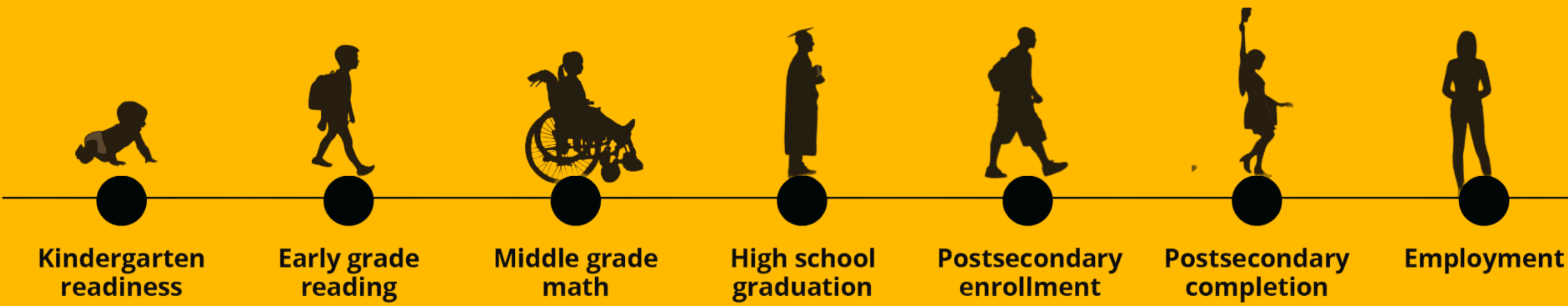
**Thank You for
Your Support!**

START A CAMPAIGN



ELEVATE

BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES THROUGH EDUCATION



Through collective impact, Elevate acts as a catalyst for change, working to eliminate barriers to student success and building better alignment across the educational continuum within our region.



Elevate’s Steering Committee, composed of cross-sector community partners, provides strategic direction for the Collective Impact initiative, championing efforts to drive data-informed, systemic change.

Elevate has three working groups: Early Learning, Middle School, and Postsecondary Access and Success. These groups work together to address key educational milestones, promoting equity and opportunity throughout the educational continuum.

ELEVATE

BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES THROUGH EDUCATION



Our work at Elevate is made possible thanks to the collaboration of our incredible partners and the generosity of our valued funders.

PARTNERS

Akin
Arrowleaf Consulting
Blue Mountain Action Council
Blue Mountain Community College
City of Walla Walla
College Place Public Schools
Columbia School District Burbank
Columbia County Health Systems
Communities in Schools
Dayton School District
Dixie School District
ESD 123
Friends of Children of Walla Walla
Gear Up
Little Angels Bio Dome Daycare and Pre-School
Milton Freewater Unified School District

Parents
Port of Columbia
Port of Walla Walla
Prescott School District
Sherwood Trust
Starbuck School District
Students
The Club Plus Delta
The STEM Foundation
Touchet School District
Waitsburg School District
Walla Walla Community College
Walla Walla School District
Walla Walla University
Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce
Walla Walla Valley Early Learning Coalition
Walla Walla YMCA
Whitman College

FUNDERS

Anonymous
Ballmer Group
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Education First
Partners for Rural Impact
StriveTogether
United Way of the Blue Mountains
Washington Cradle to Career Coalition
Washington Student Achievement Council
U.S. Department of Commerce

INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED?

If you're passionate about eliminating barriers to student success from cradle to career, join us today.

Scan the QR Code to learn more.



**Thank You for
Your Support!**



EARLY LEARNING

OUR GOAL

To provide age-appropriate, affordable, high-quality care for all children ages 0-5 in Walla Walla County, Columbia County, and the Milton-Freewater area.

77%

of children in our region don't have access to early learning or care programs.

WHY IT MATTERS

Early childhood experiences play a pivotal role in determining a child's long-term health and behavior, underscoring the significance of nurturing and high-quality experiences. Unfortunately, in our region, a staggering 77% of children do not have access to early learning or care programs and many families struggle to find adequate support. Consequently, 50% of children begin school with vulnerabilities in crucial areas essential for their healthy development.

Extensive research indicates that children who start kindergarten behind their peers tend to continue lagging throughout their educational journey, emphasizing the critical importance of addressing these disparities early on.

OUR IMPACT

Through Elevate's partnerships with local providers, businesses, and ESD 123, we are working to expand childcare access through facility expansion and workforce development. For facility expansion, we've surveyed providers and businesses to identify potential spaces and are offering grant writing assistance and workshops to support the growth of child care centers.

On the workforce side, we are collaborating with ESD 123 to create career pathways, implement work-based learning, develop a substitute teacher pool, support credentialing, expand dual credit opportunities, and design culturally responsive educator curricula.



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MIDDLE SCHOOL

OUR GOAL

By 2026, 8th grade students in our region will exhibit an 11.5 increase in math proficiency, based on state standardized measures and using each district's 2022 baseline data.

88%

of Dayton Middle Schoolers
expressed interest in more after
school activities

WHY IT MATTERS

Middle grade math scores are a key indicator of students' academic standing and their likelihood of graduating on time. Proficiency in math is seen as a predictor of success in education. By tracking students' math scores, educators can align their efforts, monitor progress, and identify necessary interventions.

This collaborative approach fosters teamwork and data-driven decision-making, leading to improvements in math proficiency and educational outcomes for students.

OUR IMPACT

In April 2024, Elevate, The STEM Foundation, and Dayton School District brought the STEM Like ME!® program to Dayton middle-schoolers, sparking strong interest in after-school STEM programs. By September, a STEAM Club after-school pilot program was developed focusing on career exploration in science, technology, engineering, art, and math.



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POSTSECONDARY

OUR GOAL

By 2030, 70% of high school graduates in our region will attain a postsecondary credential or degree.

WHY IT MATTERS

Many young people, especially students of color and students from low-income households, lack the necessary support to successfully transition from high school to postsecondary pathways. This places them at a substantial disadvantage in the job market because most jobs that pay a living wage require postsecondary credentials.

54%

of regional students
enroll within 12 months
of graduation

OUR IMPACT

A study revealed the need for stronger community connections, prompting the hiring of a community advocate.

In October 2024, Elevate onboarded a Community Advocate, who will work intentionally in local communities and through the establishment of student and family advisory groups in neighboring K-12 school districts to establish substantive relationships and build trust in communities that are not or are under-represented in our daily work.

With support from the Horizons Regional Grant, Elevate is collaborating with local school districts and ESD 123 to hire College and Career Readiness Advisors who will work intensively with students to explore postsecondary pathways, such as college, trade certifications, or registered apprenticeships.

Additionally, Horizons work will support increasing financial aid completion rates for regional students, dual credit enrollment and completion, and fostering systemic changes within schools and higher education institutions to enhance access and success for students traditionally underrepresented in postsecondary education.



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