

EDUCATION

Early Years



United Way of South Wood & Adams Counties

GOAL: CHILDREN ARE READY TO LEARN BY THE START OF SCHOOL.

40% of Wood County and 43% of Adams County households are struggling financially, despite earning income above the Federal Poverty Level. Living paycheck-to-paycheck, yet unable to afford all essentials or save for emergencies, we term these households **ALICE: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed.**



At a cost of thousands per child each year, child care is unaffordable for many ALICE families.

For ALICE families who may not qualify for Wisconsin Shares, United Way's investment helps bridge the gap – meaning children who need it most get quality care, and parents remain in the workforce.

6

Families received child care aid through partner programs in 2023 and were able to stay employed as a result.

The need for child care far outpaces the number of available child care slots.

United Way's investment reduces barriers & provides resources to new programs, helps providers become regulated, and ensures training opportunities to improve safety & quality of care.

40

Providers received support and assistance through partner programs in 2023 to increase accessibility.

\$8,000

invested in partner programs in 2024.

4,725

books mailed to children in south Wood County through Women United and Dolly Parton Imagination Library in 2023.

884

books were provided to children through Great Book Giveaway events in 2023.

100+

volunteers made an impact through Great Book Giveaway, Stuff the Bus, and the Early Years Coalition 2023.

