



Every Hero Has a Story

Is there something that stands out from your childhood as especially significant? Something that you would say shaped you and made you who you are today? For me it was books. I was an early and avid reader. I was reading everything I could get my hands on even before I went to Kindergarten. Many of my best friends live in books, and almost every value, moral, and positive attribute I have I learned from reading.

When I was in third grade I discovered a wonderful, magical place called a library. I walked in and came out forever changed by the experience. We have a number of excellent libraries in Franklin County - all of which offer reading programs to keep kids reading all summer. Franklin County Area United Way fully funds the Washington Public Library's Summer Reading Program. According to Ruth McInnis, Children's Librarian, "Without United Way, there would not be a summer reading program." Last year, 1,280 children under 18 participated in the program along with 113 adults. That's right - the Summer Reading Program is NOT just for children! Everyone from birth to 100 can participate in the program.

"The purpose of the program is to get families to read together regularly. We want to encourage lifelong learning through reading. Children who are read to transition easier to being readers. Children who read are better learners and do better in school. Reading keeps adults' brains malleable and strong. Reading expands your vocabulary, and readers are better speakers and writers." --Ruth McInnis, Children's Librarian, Washington Public Library

The Summer Reading Program is a two-prong program. First, a wide variety of programs and events will be offered all summer long at the library. The theme is "Every Hero Has a Story." Every week, fun, entertaining programs featuring superheroes will be presented. They will be offered at a variety of times and days so that everyone will have an opportunity to participate. The second prong of the program is the reading incentive program. People of all ages will be rewarded for reading or being read to. The library has a fabulous selection of audio books available for people who appreciate hearing a great story.

The incentives range from gadgets and gizmos to really cool t-shirts - the more you read, the more prizes you win. Your summer mission, should you choose to accept it, is to head over to Washington Public Library and sign up your entire family to participate in the Summer Reading Program. Reading is a powerful tool with which to equip your children. Be a superhero - read today!

Thought for the Day

"The more you **read**
the more **things** you learn.
The more that you **learn**
the more **places** you'll go."
- Dr. Seuss

Agency Tours

The spring agency tours are right around the corner on June 11 starting at 8:30 a.m. We will be touring the new FCTC/Oats building, the Union Senior Center, and Lutheran Family & Children's Services.

For details or to RSVP, call the Franklin County Area United Way office at 636-239-1018.

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