

G I V E

A D V O C A T E

V O L U N T E E R



## Focus on EDUCATION



**EDUCATION** is the cornerstone of success for both individuals and the community as a whole and can make a huge difference in people's lives. Our strategy is to provide support services and initiatives that boost every child's chance for success in school, work and life. These initiatives include **READ UNITED**, **ReadingPals**, and **MathPals**. **READ UNITED** was developed to encourage a love of reading in children. Each May, **READ UNITED** enlists community volunteers to read in every 1st grade public school classroom in the Big Bend region, and every student in these classrooms receives a brand new **FREE** book. **ReadingPals** and **MathPals** are mentoring programs to improve these core skills in children. Dedicated adult mentors are matched one-to-one with early elementary students who have been identified as struggling in these areas. These mentors and students meet weekly throughout the school year to help students strengthen their reading and math skills.

**50,000+**

**FREE** books were distributed in the last 7 years through **READ UNITED** and **ReadingPals**

**3,600**

**ReadingPals** mentoring sessions were held during the 2016-17 school year

**73%**

of **ReadingPals** participants increased their reading scores by at least one year's worth of growth



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