



- **ReadingPals** is an early literacy initiative sponsored by Carol and Barney Barnett. It focuses on engaging, training and deploying volunteer tutors to increase the number of students reading at grade level by the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.
- It is important to our community, to the Barnetts, to all businesses and families in Florida that we make a united effort to reduce the close to 40% of children who are not reading at grade level.
- Over the next three years, the Barnetts are investing \$3,000,000 in 10 regions throughout the state of Florida to improve early literacy and to build a strong foundation for academic success. Polk and Highlands are proud to be among the participating counties.
- **Locally, the United Way of Central Florida’s Women’s Leadership Council is seeking 175 diverse volunteers to impact the futures of 525 four and five year old children at risk of school failure.**

### Join us!

- Sign up to be a ReadingPal! Teaching experience is not required. Men and women over the age of 18 are encouraged to participate – college students and retirees are welcome!
- Volunteer for one (1) hour a week to provide two 30-minute tutoring sessions in a pre-kindergarten or kindergarten classroom. Help to build a healthy foundation for success in school and in life.
- ReadingPals uses a simple and practical curriculum created by Polk County schools that focuses on the state of Florida’s core competencies. Standardized test scores will be monitored to measure student improvement.
- The United Way contracted with the Learning Resource Center to provide training and on-going support designed to meet the individual needs of every volunteer.
- Training will be provided at each of the eight participating schools (listed below).

### Sign up today!

- To access an application, training schedule and additional information, see the United Way of Central Florida’s website [www.uwcf.org](http://www.uwcf.org) and click on “ReadingPals.” Or contact Hope Bogel [hope.bogel@uwcf.org](mailto:hope.bogel@uwcf.org) 863-648-1500 x 278.

POLK COUNTY SCHOOLS		
<b>Alta Vista</b> 801 Scenic Hwy Haines City, FL 33844	<b>Auburndale Central</b> 320 Lemon Street Auburndale, FL 33823	<b>Lake Shipp</b> 250 Camellia Drive Winter Haven, FL
<b>North Lakeland</b> 410 Robson Street Lakeland, FL 33805	<b>Purcell</b> 305 First Avenue NE Mulberry, FL 33860	<b>James E. Stephens</b> 1350 N. Maple Avenue Bartow, LF 33830
HIGHLANDS COUNTY SCHOOLS		
<b>Avon Elementary</b> 705 West Winthrop Street Avon Park, FL 33825	<b>Lake Country Elementary</b> 516 County Road 29 Lake Placid, FL 33852	



WOMEN'S  
LEADERSHIP  
COUNCIL

an initiative of



United Way  
of Central Florida