



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

United Way Awarded \$9,000 Grant from Jack in the Box Foundation for Attendance Matters®

Kennewick, WA – March 3, 2025 – United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties is proud to announce that it has been awarded a \$9,000 grant from the Jack in the Box Foundation to support our Attendance Matters® Mentoring Program. This grant will help further United Way's mission to provide essential mentorship opportunities to local students, empowering them to succeed academically and stay engaged in their education.

These generous contributions will fund our Attendance Matters® program which educates the community about regular school attendance to help kids graduate high school. We help local schools promote programs to increase attendance rates. Our mission is to enhance student success and encourage a positive path towards graduation. We make strategic investments in local agencies that address the root causes of absenteeism. The program serves students of all backgrounds and socioeconomic statuses, with a focus on students who have historically been underserved. The program currently mentors 350+ local students inside 9 local middle schools.

"United Way is grateful for the Jack in the Box Foundations support in our mission to enhance student success and encourage a positive path towards graduation through our Attendance Matters® mentorship program for at-risk students. This will allow us to build upon our mission of ensuring every child has the opportunity to succeed," said Dr. LoAnn Ayers, CEO & President of United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties. "These funds will directly impact the lives of children who face barriers to success, helping them stay on track with their education and receive the support they need to thrive."

The Jack in the Box Foundation is committed to supporting organizations that make a meaningful impact in local communities, and United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties is honored to be one of the recipients of this grant. The organization looks forward to seeing the positive effects this funding will have on students in the area and appreciates the opportunity to continue providing valuable mentorship to local youth.

About Jack in the Box Foundation

Established in 1998, the Jack in the Box Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity that helps people access and explore life outside the box. Through Jack's Community Grants, the Jack in the Box Foundation supports nonprofit organizations that feed, educate, and empower youth and families in restaurant communities across the country.

About United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties:

Since 1958 our community-based organization continues to support the health, safety, and success of local kids and families. We envision a community where all children have an opportunity to learn and thrive.

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