



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties Receives \$5,000 Grant from Umpqua Bank to Support Attendance Matters® Mentoring Program

Kennewick, WA — March 31, 2026 — United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties is proud to announce it has received a \$5,000 grant from Umpqua Bank in support of its Attendance Matters® initiative, a program dedicated to improving student attendance and long-term academic success across the region.

The Attendance Matters® initiative works collaboratively with local schools, families, and community partners to address chronic absenteeism—one of the leading indicators of academic challenges and dropout risk. Through targeted outreach, mentorship, and resource coordination, the program helps remove barriers that prevent students from regularly attending school.

“This generous support from Umpqua Bank strengthens our ability to ensure that every child has the opportunity to succeed,” said Asta Bonheyo, Community Impact Director of United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties. “Regular school attendance is foundational to educational achievement, and this funding allows us to expand our efforts to support students and families who need it most.”

The grant will be used to enhance program resources, including family engagement tools, and partnerships with local schools to identify and assist at-risk students. By investing in early intervention strategies, Attendance Matters aims to create lasting improvements in student outcomes and community well-being.

“We are so grateful that Umpqua Bank believes that strong communities begin with strong education systems and that they support United Way’s work in addressing absenteeism and helping students stay on track for a brighter future,” Bonheyo said.

United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties remains committed to advancing education, financial stability, and health throughout the community. The organization continues to work with partners across sectors to create meaningful, measurable change. Together we can better the lives of local kids.

Media Contact:

Jade Elliott
Communications and Special Projects Director
United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties
509-521-6076
Email: jelliott@uwbfco.org
Website: www.uwbfco.org