United Way fights for the health, education and financial stability of every person in every community. But we are more than fundraisers. We are hand raisers. We raise our hands not only to lead the fight, but to reach out to people who need help. And hope.

The United Way of Southeastern Idaho is serving as the "backbone" organization for our Cradle-to-Career efforts in SE Idaho. We call this imPACT East Idaho. What is imPACT East Idaho? It’s an effort to ensure that every child in SE Idaho enters school "kindergarten ready" and that every student has a chance to earn a postsecondary degree or credential.

Currently, in SE Idaho only 41% of economically disadvantaged students were "kindergarten ready." We know that if students don’t catch up by third grade, they likely will not catch up at all and will miss out on postsecondary opportunities. So we are here to do something about it.

One big success story is in the American Falls School District. We are piloting an initiative that will expand the number of available preschool seats in that community. Currently, only 18% of American Falls students were "kindergarten ready."

There is a huge need in the community for more high-quality preschool programs to ensure that all students have a chance to enter kindergarten ready to learn and succeed.

As the backbone organization, the United Way of SE Idaho will convene a group involving the American Falls School District, two large businesses, a health care clinic, and four existing preschool programs. Together, we will collectively create a plan to expand high quality preschool "The Idaho Way" -- as a community and change the odds for the next generation of students.

Changing the odds in Southeast Idaho is less about helping one person at a time and more about discovering the long-term solutions to help us all. We have more work to do and need your support! Please GIVE TODAY to the United Way of Southeastern Idaho. Because Change Doesn’t Happen Alone!