Benefits of volunteering. Over the past 2 decades, research shows us volunteering provides not just social benefits, but individual health benefits as well. Those who volunteer have lower mortality rates, greater functional ability, & lower rates of depression later in life than those who do not volunteer.

United Way of Berks County’s mission is to link individuals and groups to community service and volunteer opportunities throughout Berks County. The Volunteer Center offers a variety of volunteering opportunities to suit your interests and schedule. We all have special abilities, things we can do for our community, like reading with children, teaching financial literacy classes or delivering meals to homebound seniors. We invite you to give the gift of you.

Here’s how to get started:

- Log on to: www.uwberks.org
- Click on: Volunteer. Give your time.
- Click on: Volunteer Now or Volunteer Solutions - You are now on the Volunteer Solutions Home Page
- Scroll down to User Login area; if you already have a username and password, please enter it here
- If you do not have a username and password, click on: Not registered? Sign up now. By registering, you have more robust tools available to you for searching for volunteer opportunities, tracking volunteer hours, and for writing volunteer reflections.

You’re ready to go! You can now find volunteer opportunities that suit your particular interest, skills & passion. You can search by agency, opportunity, keywords, and area of interest. Check out the opportunities (activities or projects) that Agencies have created and listed. You will be able to inquire directly with the Agency.

If you have any questions or need help navigating Volunteer Solutions, please feel free to contact
Darby Wiekrykas, Volunteer Engagement Program Manager
United Way of Berks County at 610-685-4574 or darbyw@uwberks.org
A special note if you are interested in BoardLink opportunities. Boardlink is a way for non-profit agencies to display their open Board of Directors’ positions to the public, to hopefully draw some interest to the positions. It includes details about the agency and gives details about qualifications the person should have to apply for the position listed. Once logged in as a user, you can scroll through all of the current Board and Committee opportunities.

- Click on: BoardLink

You can scroll through all of the current Board and Committee opportunities without making any commitment. If you would like to be considered for a position:

- Click on the opportunity and click on: Apply for this position. You will be asked to update your BoardLink profile

If you have any questions or need help navigating Volunteer Solutions, please feel free to contact
Darby Wiekrykas, Volunteer Engagement Program Manager
United Way of Berks County at 610-685-4574 or darbyw@uwberks.org
Volunteer Tutoring

United Way of Berks County has created the Ready. Set. READ! program to help improve reading proficiency in the Berks County area. With the help of trained volunteer tutors, the Ready. Set. READ! program hopes to have 90% of Berks County 3rd graders reading at a proficient level by 2023.

Who can volunteer to become a tutor?

Anyone! College students, retired educators, corporate employees, and community individuals have all stepped forward to volunteer.

Do I need any qualifications?

To become a tutor, we require 3 clearances to be completed: Child Abuse History form, Criminal History Record Check, and FBI Fingerprinting. Clearance forms cost approximately $50.00. For more information on clearances, visit the Volunteer section of the Ready. Set. READ! website.

Is there any tutor training?

Yes! We have created a training program that consists of 3 one-hour sessions that will teach you how to engage a student in fun and exciting reading activities.

How long are tutoring sessions?

We ask tutors to commit to only 1 hour each week.

Where will I go to tutor?

Approximately 17 elementary schools within the Antietam, Reading, Hamburg, Muhlenberg, Governor Mifflin and Exeter school districts.

Do I need any supplies to tutor?

We have created tutor bags for you. These bags come with all the supplies you would need: a new book, notebook, whiteboard, pencil case, pack of index cards, box of crayons, and a handful of pencils.

Don’t have time to tutor.

No problem! United Way of Berks County has various other volunteer opportunities that enable you to help your community. Volunteer possibilities include help with summer programs, special events, and office

Interested in volunteer tutoring?

Visit www.readysetreadberks.org to submit an application today!

Tutoring Feedback from Students, Parents, and Teachers

"It was awesome. I hope one day I could be one (tutor) when I’m older."

-Tyson Schoener Student

"Tutoring is fun!"

-Riverside Student

"My child really enjoys the tutoring program. I can see his improvement every week. Thank you."

-Muhlenberg Parent

"My child enjoys the program so much. He wishes it would be everyday. Thank you!"

-Exeter Parent

"Thank you for taking the time to push our students forward. They are improving their reading and comprehension."

-Lauer's Park Elementary Teacher