

GIVE YOUTH A CHANCE

Middle school is tough. Students enter into a new, bigger school, have to make new friends, and may experience bullying—all while going through the biggest physical and emotional transformation of their lives. Those struggling the most are more likely to miss school, fail classes, and, eventually, drop out. United Way ELI members fight for youth to make it across the finish line and start on a path to future success.



“Growing up is hard. ELI provides support to youth who maybe have a few more barriers than other individuals so they can achieve their education and move on to other opportunities. For

me, being a member of ELI is an opportunity to see great work from amazing programs, while also networking with people who feel these programs are important.”

Angie Arthur
ELI member

“What we really want our students to see is that there are people out there who care for them, love them, and want to support them. And that there are opportunities out there that they didn't even know existed.”

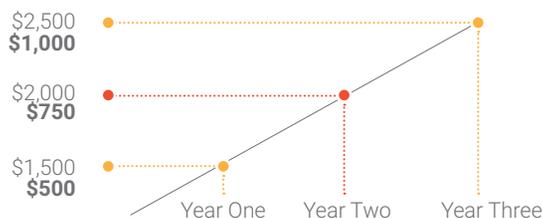
Jason Snow
Sixth Grade Administrator
Weeks Middle School

JOIN EDUCATION LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

Your investment directly improves the lives of youth in our community. As a member of ELI, you'll receive:

- Updates and learning opportunities to see the impact of your investment
- Opportunities to join committees and volunteer
- Interaction with a network of like-minded community leaders
- Potential new leadership, business, and career opportunities
- Potential tax savings from charitable giving

GIVING MADE EASY



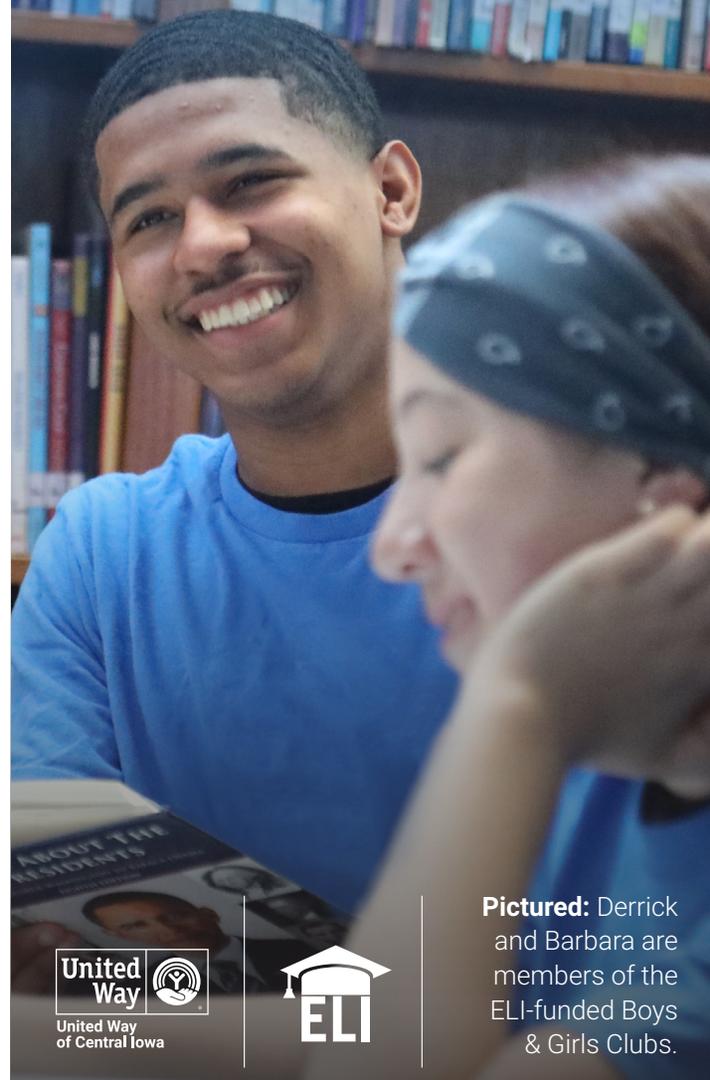
Enjoy the benefits of ELI membership by joining a three-year step-up program (\$500/\$750/\$1,000). Step-up is also available for ELI Lead membership (\$1,500/\$2,000/\$2,500) and ELI Tocqueville Society (\$5,000/\$7,500/\$10,000).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Chase Young
chase.young@unitedwaydm.org
(515) 246-6504

UNITEDWAYDM.ORG/ELI

EDUCATION LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE



Pictured: Derrick and Barbara are members of the ELI-funded Boys & Girls Clubs.



WHAT IF EVERY MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT HAD A CHANCE TO GRADUATE?

Imagine the impact those students could make on our community if they succeed.

Sixth-graders who do not attend school regularly, receive poor behavior marks, or fail math or English have no more than a **10% chance** of graduating on time.



Balfanz & Herzog



Peak time for juvenile crime and experimentation with drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, and sex is **3:00-6:00 p.m.**, when many middle school students are unsupervised.

Shanklin et. al.

ELI supports the following strategies to help students build supportive relationships, attend school, and gain skills for employment:

- Quality and engaging out-of-school programs
- Activities that reduce summer learning loss
- Supportive services for at-risk students and their families
- Opportunities to foster positive physical and mental health

YOUR DOLLARS MATTER

ELI investments increase the likelihood that 9,000 high-risk youth in central Iowa will successfully transition from middle school into high school and, ultimately, graduate. Over one year, your investments can make this difference for these students:

\$500

One student receives school-based support from caring adult role models.

\$1,000

One student attends a quality after-school program to receive support with academics and build relationships.

\$2,500

10 students receive one-on-one support and access to food, clothes, and health care at school.

\$5,000

470 students receive in-school case management, health and behavior health services, and access to additional supportive services.

\$10,000

1,611 middle school students attend supportive groups that build leadership, reading, and career skills and support positive emotional development.



NEW INDEPENDENCE AFTER MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES

Jontavious joined ManUp Iowa when he was 14, after returning home from the fourth out-of-home placement for mental health care treatment in his young life. An ELI-funded after-school mentoring program for at-risk male youth, ManUp Iowa empowers young men to make good choices, be responsible, and stay in school. After years of treatment for autism, Jontavious could finally spend time with adult male role models and his peers.

The program has had a positive influence on his life, helping stabilize him emotionally, opening him up to relationships, and defusing his anger. His grandmother Antoinette and ManUp have a “buddy system,” and she sometimes calls to talk through problems he’s experiencing so ManUp can cover the topics in a session.

Now 16, Jontavious has been home full-time for three years. He attends Scavo High School and is on track to graduate. He just got his driver’s permit and his first job.

Antoinette can’t believe how much he’s changed:

“I just see him growing into a young man. Before I didn’t see us getting there. He has gotten more mature—and more conscious of his actions.”