

Dear Boone County Success By 6® Partner or Supporter,

On behalf of the Boone County Success By 6® Board of Directors, I am excited to share our new and exciting approach to support early childhood in Boone County.

Boone County Success By 6® has existed as a public/private partnership between local Boone County partners and United Way of Greater Cincinnati for 17 years. Boone County Success By 6® has the opportunity to continue to lead, innovate and adapt to respond to a changing early childhood landscape. As of March 1, 2019, Boone County Success By 6® will not continue to operate as a separate effort and we will not retain current Boone County staff, however the regional Success By 6® initiative will continue to be led by United Way of Greater Cincinnati and will continue to serve Boone County as part of its service area. As a part of this transition our local Boone County partners have established a Boone County Early Childhood Fund to provide additional supports in early childhood for Boone County.

With the understanding that a child's early years are the most critical for development towards leading a healthy and productive life, Boone County Success By 6® was established 17 years ago by a group of community leaders to improve child well-being within the county. After studying early childhood efforts nationwide, the original partners identified United Way's Success By 6® initiative as an outstanding model to emulate in Boone County, resulting in a unique public/private partnership that broadened investment in early childhood. The vision of this new organization was to work to unite Boone County to ensure all children are healthy, safe, nurtured and prepared to succeed in school.

Since then, much progress has occurred locally. Work to improve the quality of childcare in the community by supporting child care providers on their path to increase their quality ratings, investment in StoryWalks in our community parks, and wide-spread implementation of developmental screening in early childhood programs are just a few examples of the impactful work of Boone County Success By 6®. We have much to celebrate!

Additionally, United Way of Greater Cincinnati has expanded and refined its Success By 6® initiative and as a result, the importance of early childhood has been elevated throughout the region and at the state level. State support and system infrastructure to advance early childhood efforts at the local level have been developed and improved. These include the establishment of Community Early Childhood Councils, a statewide quality rating system for childcare and a consistent, statewide measurement for kindergarten readiness. The partnership in Boone County was very much viewed as a model for how local communities can work together on this issue.

Local partners will continue to invest in advancing the early childhood work in the county by establishing the Boone County Early Childhood Fund. This fund will directly support organizations working with Boone County children in ways that align with the 2017 Boone County Success By 6® Strategic Plan. With continued funding from the Boone County Cooperative Extension, Boone County Local Board of Health and the Boone County Public Library and staffed by the Boone County Human Services Department, the Fund Board will oversee an annual distribution of allocations to applicant organizations. Annual allocations will total between \$75,000-\$100,000 for programs or capital expenses that support Boone County children ages 0-5.

The Boone County Early Childhood Fund will support programs which seek to:

- Increase the quality and availability of early education and care for children
- Provide a foundation for lifelong development rooted in behavioral and physical health
- Support parents and families in their roles as teachers, caregivers and supporters of their children's development
- Provide training for teachers to increase their professional development
- Improve the effectiveness of services affecting young children and their families
- Expand, remodel or construct early learning facilities and classrooms necessary to support early learning opportunities

Working to carry on and accelerate the work began through Boone County Success By 6®, the Boone County Early Childhood Fund Board will be established with representatives from the following organizations:

- Boone County Fiscal Court
- Boone County Cooperative Extension District
- Boone County Local Board of Health
- Boone County Planning and Zoning
- Boone County Public Library
- Boone County School District
- City of Florence
- Northern Kentucky Community Action Commission
- St. Elizabeth Healthcare
- United Way of Greater Cincinnati
- Walton-Verona School District

Applications and further information will be available after July 1, 2019 at www.boonecountky.org/departments/human_services.

We look forward to this new, targeted approach to support early childhood initiatives in our county. We welcome your questions, interest in becoming a partner organization and applicant for funding to help continue this critical work in our community.

For questions regarding Success By 6® efforts in Northern Kentucky, please contact Amanda Greenwell at 859-647-5522 or amanda.greenwell@uwgc.org

For questions regarding the Boone County Early Childhood Fund, please contact Laura Pleiman at 859-334-3124 or lpleiman@boonecountky.org

To contact Lauren Kathman after March 1, 2019 you can do so at laurenkathman@fuse.net or 859-992-5985

Sincerely,



Kathleen G. Reutman, Board Chair