Nearly 40% of Central Florida’s third graders attending public school cannot read at the appropriate level. This puts these students at a distinct disadvantage throughout their scholastic careers. These children are four times more likely to drop out of high school if they continue on this path.

ReadingPals connects passionate volunteers with students who need extra help developing essential literacy skills. Each child participating in the ReadingPals initiative also receives at least 7 books to help build their home library, a vital component of continued learning and literacy.

Heart of Florida United Way is partnering with Orange County Public Schools, the School District of Osceola County, Seminole County Public Schools and other organizations to bring ReadingPals to Central Florida.

Who Does ReadingPals Serve?
ReadingPals impacts Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) classrooms. Generally, your pal will be 4 years old and will need your help for school readiness. Students will be identified by their teachers at the beginning of the year based on their performance on the Fall VPK assessment.

How will I help?
Using a blended curriculum of digital and traditional books, volunteers will help students work through specific lessons to enhance learning. These lessons will build valuable pre-literacy skills such as rhyming, combining syllables and beginning sounds by reading the book together, answering follow-up questions and other supportive learning activities.

Become a ReadingPal Today!
✓ Commit to spending 30-minute sessions with your pal once per week throughout the school year.
✓ Pass a background check.
✓ Attend a volunteer training session.
✓ Get matched to your pal.
✓ Work with your pal to develop valuable reading skills with the provided materials.
✓ Become a friend and mentor.
✓ Change a life while enriching your own.

VOLUNTEER UnitedWayReadingPals.org
Contact the United Way ReadingPals Coordinator at 407-835-0900 x149.