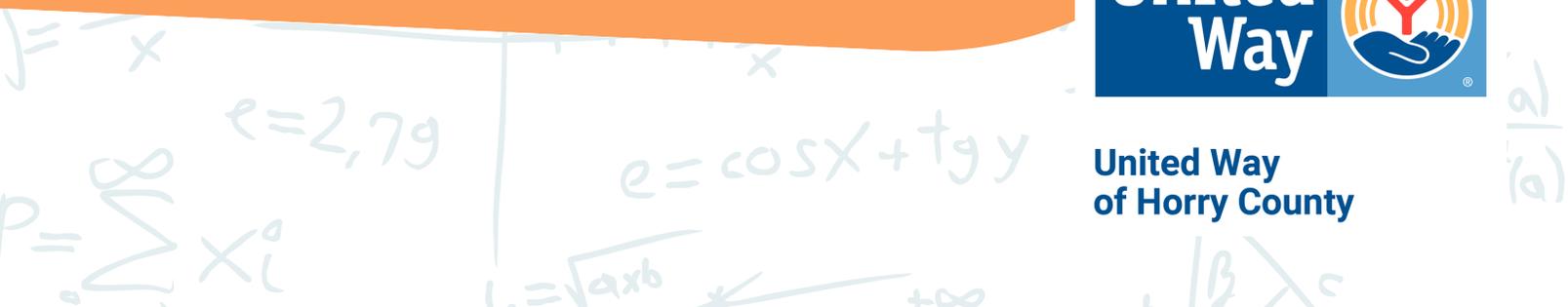




# CAMP United

## 2022 IMPACT REPORT



United Way  
of Horry County

## BACKGROUND

Loris Elementary School (LES) is a Title I school located in rural Horry County, one of the county's poorest areas. With little access to childcare and no summer educational curriculum, UWHC partnered with Horry County Schools to host the first Camp United at Loris Elementary in 2021 for rising first and second graders. The results of Camp United were impressive. 88% of all students had gains in math, 88% of first-graders had gains in words read correctly, and 80% of second-graders had gains in oral reading fluency.

For the 2020/2021 school year, only 24.8% of students were prepared to enter kindergarten. Local educators reported that many students were not academically prepared, had minimal socialization skills, and lacked fine motor skills typically expected before a child enters kindergarten. For these reasons, UWHC decided to shift the focus of Camp United to those students entering kindergarten.

A child's first school experiences can influence how they relate to others for the rest of their life. Success or failure at this stage can affect a child's well-being, self-esteem, and motivation. This shift in focus allows students entering kindergarten to be in a position to better prepare them for their formal education from the very beginning.

**On average, students lose 17-34% of the prior year's learning gains during summer break.** Younger children are more prone to the most learning loss because of the crucial state in their development. **Children from low-income families are disproportionately affected by the summer slide in ways that can affect them years into their education.**

Camp United can help close this gap in inequitable services and opportunities for these students.



## 2022 CAMP UNITED INFORMATION

This year's camp was held June 9 - July 13, Monday - Thursday, from 7:30 am to 2:30 pm, and used HCS-approved curricula, "Big Day for PreK," and instructed by licensed HCS teachers. Camp United was held at Myrtle Beach Early Childhood and Loris Elementary School, which served as a base site for Loris, Daisy, and Green Sea Floyds Elementary Schools. Thirty-nine students attended Camp United for 2022.

All four of these schools are Title I schools, and the poverty rates at each are considerably higher than most in other HCS schools. Loris is at 85.5%, Daisy at 82.9%, Green Sea Floyds at 80.1%, and Myrtle Beach at 80.1%. Because all of the schools served by Camp United are Title I, buses for transportation for the students to be picked up and dropped off was provided and free breakfast and lunch. Snacks and supplies were also provided at no charge.

At the end of the program, all Camp United students could participate in the Book Fair to pick out books for home at no charge.



## IMPACT

Academic growth during Camp United was measured by administering the Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS). This comprehensive assessment of young children's knowledge of essential literacy skills includes name writing, uppercase, and lowercase letter identification, letter sounds, beginning sounds in words, rhyme awareness, and nursery rhyme knowledge. Data analysis of their academic growth included comparing each student's end-of-year PALS score in May to their end-of-camp PALS score at the end of Camp in July.

Camp United participants showed significant gains in their academic scores as measured by the PALS assessment. **Every student who attended made academic growth.** The overall score increase for each site exceeded 300 points from the end of school to the end of camp.

In addition to the academic skills gained, Camp United also provided the opportunity to continue practicing social, language, and communication skills. Students were actively engaged in learning tasks while socializing and communicating with and among students recently introduced to them from various schools. Students took turns, encouraged each other, and shared resources while engaging in meaningful and inquisitive conversations with new classmates. These students are prepared academically and socially for a successful kindergarten year.

"Many thanks to United Way and the sponsors who made Camp United possible for Horry County Schools' child development students. What a great opportunity for students to continue learning and growing after the school year ended! Camp United made it possible for students to continue receiving quality instruction in a smaller class setting with teachers who are experts in the effective teaching of young learners."

-Tammy Martin, HCS Coordinator of Early Childhood & Parenting



94.87% of kids are ready for more challenge in letter sounds



89.74% of all students are ready for more challenge with name writing



82% of all students are ready for more challenge with nursery rhyme awareness

"Every student who attended made academic growth."

# SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you for contributions from these local organizations to help make Camp United possible.



Camp United is a program of United Way of Horry County. Scan the QR code for additional information. For questions, please contact [Marketing@unitedwayhorry.org](mailto:Marketing@unitedwayhorry.org).

