

# PLANT THE SEED OF LEARNING

United Way of  
Lancaster County



## COLLECTIVE IMPACT PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

### COMMUNITY NEED

The achievement gap between children from higher- and lower-income families is evident in kindergarten. This gap only increases as the child ages and struggles to keep up with peers in school. This gap can be closed by **high-quality early education programs**, but only 15% of three and four year-olds attend publicly-funded Pre-K, resulting in less than 27% of students meeting benchmarks on kindergarten screening assessments.

### BOLD GOAL ADDRESSED



**100% of our children will enter kindergarten ready to learn.**

### OUR SOLUTION

Plant the Seed of Learning (PTSL) aims to empower parents with tools to support their child's healthy brain development at home. Through sessions designed for both 0-2 year-olds and 3-4 year-olds, hosted by local school districts, early childhood professionals, and medical personnel, this partnership shares simple activities that **help children learn critical skills for success** in school and life. In an effort to support families in every aspect of life, PTSL employs a family and community outreach specialist to assist families before children enter kindergarten. PTSL is **actively expanding to more locations** across the county with more session subjects in order to reach as many families as possible.



### MAJOR SUCCESSES

**250**

PTSL bags are distributed to families each year, full of educational toys and books for quality playtime at home

**77%**

of children who participated in PTSL since birth scored proficient on the Kindergarten readiness assessment. The county average for proficiency is only 26%

**94%**

of parents who participated in PTSL report increased reading and purposeful play with their child at least 2x a day

# KEY PARTNERS

## Plant the Seed of Learning

- Aimee's Babies
- Cocalico School District
- Community Action Partnership (CAP)
- Conestoga Valley School District
- Ephrata Area School District
- Early Childhood Innovative Connections
- Eastern Lancaster County School District
- Hempfield School District
- Lampeter-Strasburg School District
- Manheim Township School District
- Penn Medicine LG Health- Nurse Family Partnership
- Pequea Valley School District
- School District of Lancaster
- Solanco School District
- Warwick School District
- Wellspring Ephrata Community Hospital



“ PROVIDING PARENTS WITH THE TOOLS NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THEIR CHILDREN AT HOME CAN MAKE A LASTING IMPACT. STRONG COMMUNITIES BUILD EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS THROUGH COMMITTED PARTNERSHIPS. ”

Plant the Seed of Learning officially forms at the beginning of the first United Way of Lancaster County 3 year collective impact grant cycle

In response to parent feedback, a 'Grow the Seed of Learning' curriculum is added to serve 2-4 year-old children before kindergarten

JULY 2015

JULY 2016

JULY 2017

COMING 2019

Plant the Seed of Learning is officially granted 501(c)(3) status, making them a registered charitable organization able to apply for additional grants

Plant the Seed of Learning plans to expand to the Washington Education Center and Solanco area to provide additional sessions to reach more families