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**EDUCATION**

## United Way launches child literacy council

By PBN Staff

PROVIDENCE – United Way of Rhode Island on Wednesday launched a council whose goal will be to ensure that every child in Rhode Island can read by the end of third grade.

The Women's Leadership Council will work to improve the child literacy rate through volunteering, mentoring, fundraising, networking and advocacy, a news release said.

The council is composed of about 30 United Way stakeholders; a \$1,000 donation is required to join.

United Way said that children in Rhode Island have the second-lowest fourth grade reading proficiency level in New England. Nearly two-thirds of low-income families nationally do not own any books, it added.

"We plan to tap into the amazing power and influence of Rhode Island women in order to help children succeed in life," said Barbara Silvis, chair of United Way's board of directors and founding member of the Women's Leadership Council.

The council has no specific volunteer plans currently but is in talks with several groups, a spokesman said.

*For more information, click [here](#).*



### United Way of Rhode Island

UNITED Way of Rhode Island on Wednesday launched a council whose primary goal will be to ensure that every child in Rhode Island can read by the end of third grade.