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# Mayor, UWP teaming up to encourage service

## Initiative's goal to recruit 500 mentors, tutors and readers through local 'Get Connected' web portal

SPARTANBURG, S.C. (Jan. 15, 2013) — Spartanburg Mayor Junie White and United Way of the Piedmont CEO Chris Steed announced a new initiative today to recruit 500 new mentors, tutors and readers for school-aged children this year. The effort represents the start of a yearlong effort to build on this year's MLK Unity Week and its theme this year of "Serve With A Purpose."

**GET CONNECTED**

United Way  
of the Piedmont



The effort also will complement United Way of the Piedmont's existing "GetConnected" initiative, which serves to connect volunteers and donors with organizations with needs throughout the area. People interested in joining Mayor White's effort and becoming a reader, tutor or mentor can register at [www.uwpiedmont.org/getconnected](http://www.uwpiedmont.org/getconnected).

"We know that volunteering to read, tutor or mentor a child is one of the very best ways to support young people and our local schools," Mayor White said. "In turn, this is one of the best ways a small investment of time on the part of many people can produce significant and lasting long-term results. With United Way of the Piedmont's fantastic GetConnected tool, I am confident that we can reach our goal of 500 new readers, tutors and mentors this year and positively impact the lives of hundreds of young people."

There are many opportunities for people who want to help. Local schools will be able to match up volunteers with students who need help in reading and other subjects. Local non-profits such as the Boys & Girls Club and Big Brothers Big Sisters also will help connect volunteers with young people in their organizations.

"GetConnected is the most powerful local resource for information about services and volunteer opportunities," said Chris Steed, CEO of United Way of the Piedmont. "This wonderful partnership with the City will allow us to use GetConnected to promote a very specific and impactful type of volunteerism."

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