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United Way of Salt Lake Announces New ‘Promise Partnership’ in Midvale

Canyons School District, Midvale City and Savage working together with United Way to improve education outcomes

Salt Lake City, UT— Today, United Way of Salt Lake (UWSL), Midvale City, Canyons School District, and Savage announced the launch of a community-wide partnership focused on improving education outcomes for low-income Midvale students.

“This is a unique partnership where we have visionary leadership from Canyons School District, the Mayor’s office, and the business community,” said Bill Crim, United Way of Salt Lake President and CEO. “In order to improve academic, health and financial stability outcomes, we have to break down traditional silos. It takes a community of people coming together focused on kids, willing to do whatever it takes to help them succeed; this is what is happening in Midvale,” continued Crim.

UWSL, Canyons, Midvale City, and Savage, together with many other partners, are focused on moving the needle on key indicators that affect student success including: kindergarten readiness, 3rd grade reading and 8th grade math proficiency, high school graduation, college completion; as well as improvements to health access, health status and financial stability. Partners will collaborate and use data to make informed decisions to align resources, connect appropriate interventions, and provide additional opportunities to the schools, students and families in the Midvale community.

“I am very excited about the opportunity to work alongside United Way to provide additional resources and support to our staff and students in our Title I schools,” Canyons Superintendent Dr. Jim Briscoe said. “This partnership mobilizes businesses and civic groups to address broader community issues that impact student achievement. It’s about building a strong community, and United Way understands the positive impact of quality education on our community.”

Specifically, United Way of Salt Lake is supporting and working directly with staff at four Title 1 elementary schools (Copperview, East Midvale, Midvale, Sandy), Midvale Middle School and Hillcrest High School where 90% of students qualify for free and reduced price lunch and over a third are English language learners. UWSL will employ a Promise Midvale Partnership Director who will facilitate collaboration between the schools, Canyons School District, Midvale City and other partners to address challenges and support low-income students and their families from cradle to career.

“Joining the business community, nonprofit organizations and schools to have a comprehensive plan to help students to achieve success is the model that has proven to be successful in like communities across the country. Such programs ensure that students are successful and that they sustain mastery

over time,” said Midvale Mayor Joann Seghini. “I am very excited that Midvale, Canyons School, United Way, and our business have joined together to make a difference in the lives of our students.”

Midvale joins United Way of Salt Lake’s five additional “Promise Partnership” communities (South Salt Lake, Kearns, Park City, Clearfield, West Valley) with cradle-to-career support and deep collaborative partnerships. These communities have leadership from schools, cities and districts who work together to achieve common goals across communities as part of a regional effort led by the council Promise Partnership Regional Council.

United Way of Salt Lake’s regional and school-based work was recently highlighted in a study by Harvard Business School entitled *Business Aligning for Student Success: The Promise of Collective Impact*, as a best practice among Collective Impact partnerships across the country. The study specifically highlights how business community engagement can be a key strategy for improving education outcomes.

“We’re thrilled to see this partnership come together,” said Kirk Aubry, President and CEO of Savage. “Savage is committed to helping students in Midvale succeed—this is a community where we have a significant presence and we believe it’s both our responsibility and our privilege to give back in the communities where we live and work.”

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About Canyons School District

In November 2007, voters in Alta, Cottonwood Heights, Draper, Midvale and Sandy created the first new school district in Utah in nearly 100 years. Canyons School District began offering services July 1, 2009, and remains dedicated to preparing all students for college and careers.

About Savage

Founded in 1946, Savage is a global leader in the creation and delivery of integrated supply-chain services and systems. With 3,500 team members in more than 200 operating locations, Savage supports a wide variety of customers in the production, manufacturing and distribution of energy resources and other essential commodities. The company offers capabilities that span rail, truck and marine transport, terminal and facility operation and design, and related services. For more information, visit www.savageservices.com.

About United Way of Salt Lake

United Way is pursuing lasting social change on some of the toughest issues we face-- poverty, poor health, and lagging educational achievement. Using a Collective Impact framework—uniting business, government, cities, schools, donors, and volunteers—we are working to change lives and communities forever. We invite you to be part of the change, you can give, you can advocate, and you can volunteer. Together, we can do more than help one child beat the odds, we can change the odds for entire communities. Join the conversation by visiting our blog at uwslhub.org, or find out more at uw.org.