



Sentenced: Film Screening and Community Conversation

In September, community members gathered for a pre-release screening of *Sentenced*, a documentary by Steph Curry. *Sentenced* delves into the harsh and personal reality of intergenerational illiteracy, capturing the poignant stories of four American families from South-Central Los Angeles, rural Appalachia, and New York City. The film also includes insights from educational partners in Fort Worth, Detroit, and Memphis, emphasizing that illiteracy is a pervasive community issue that transcends regions, demographics, politics, and races.

Following the film, community leaders discussed literacy in the community from their unique perspectives. Local author and speaker [Jay Foreman](#) led the conversation with guests Dr. Jason Van Heukelum (Superintendent of Winchester Public Schools), Rev. Ahnna Lise Stevens-Jennings (Associate Pastor at Braddock St. UMC), Vanessa Santiago (Deputy Director of City of Winchester EDA), and Joseph Dewald (Vice President Contact Center Operations at Navy Federal Credit Union).

The community was encouraged to get involved with the Campaign through giving, volunteering, or partnering on a committee to lend expertise and guidance. To learn more about ways to get involved, [contact](#) Allie Mondell. *Sentenced* is now available to stream on [NBC's Peacock](#).

Winchester CGLR Goals



Overarching Goal

Increase the percentage of third graders reading at or above the proficient level to at least 75% by 2032



School Readiness

Increase the number of children ready for kindergarten to at least 90% based on their performance on the PALS-K. Focus will be on further developing high-quality preschool and daycare programs and offering families out-of-school options to further learning and growth.



School Attendance

Reduce chronic absenteeism to rates at or below 10% among K-4th graders at all four elementary schools by 2025.



Summer and Afterschool Learning

Increase by 100% the number of K-4th grade students who have access to summer and afterschool opportunities that focus on literacy-related learning and enrichment.



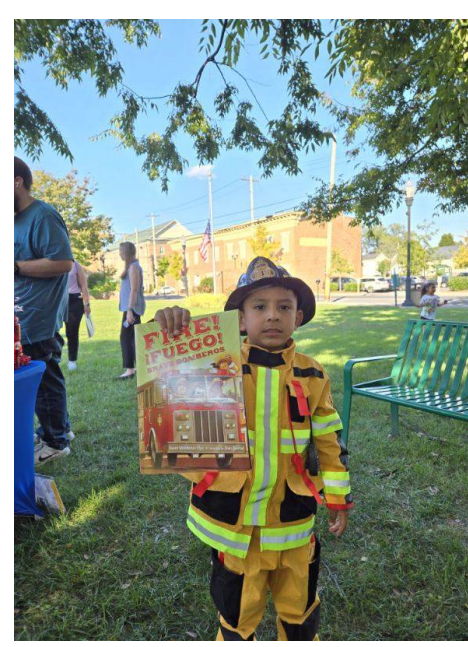
Leyendo Juntos: Fostering Literacy and Community Connection

This fall, Literacy Volunteers & the Campaign for Grade Level Reading launched the Leyendo Juntos Laundromat Reading Circle program, held at the Super Suds Laundromat in Winchester. This innovative approach allows families to multitask—doing laundry while their children engage in enriching activities. During these sessions, children dive into story time, enjoy crafts, and participate in reading comprehension exercises. This not only fosters a love for reading but also helps develop essential literacy skills in a fun and interactive environment.

In addition to the children's activities, the Leyendo Juntos team is committed to supporting parents as well. During sessions, parents are provided with the cost of laundry services and are encouraged to engage with the program and connect with local resources, fostering a sense of community and shared purpose.

On September 11th, Leyendo Juntos held a National Day of Service event on the Our Health lawn. LVWA's Program Coordinator, Ori Largent, read a bilingual book about firefighters and helped the kids make crafts. The Winchester Fire and Rescue Department brought a fire truck for the kids to explore, and all kids received a copy of "Fire! Fuego! Brave Bomberos!" thanks to a grant from Serve Virginia.

To learn more about Leyendo Juntos, visit LVWA's [website](#) or email Ori Urbaz Largent at olargent@lvwa.org.



Summer Program Update

From summer reading at the library to half day or full day camps, our community offers many ways to engage kids during the summer months. This summer, Campaign partners like The Kids Club of Northern Shenandoah Valley and HIVE held summer programs for over 250 kids in Winchester!

Fall Attendance Challenge

WPS elementary schools competed in a Fall Attendance Challenge in September. The overall attendance for the four elementary schools was 94.5% during the competition. John Kerr Elementary School won with 98%. Thanks to the [John & Janice Wyatt Foundation](#), students enjoyed Kona Ice to celebrate!

Passport to Reading

The new Passport to Reading program, offered through the Handley Regional Library, is up and running! The program is designed to connect families to Campaign partners and resources. Families can complete reading activities in a bingo-styled card to earn prizes. So far, 482 kids have enrolled in the program!



Coalition Partners



Anita Jenkins
Bright Futures
Community Foundation of Northern Shenandoah Valley
Girls on the Run Shenandoah Valley
Handley Regional Library System
Healthy Families of the Northern Shenandoah Valley
H. N. Funkhouser
Infant Toddler Connection
Jay Foreman
John & Janice Wyatt Foundation
La Leche League of the NSV
Laurel Ridge Community College
Literacy Volunteers Winchester Area
Moms in Motion
Opportunity Scholars

Pediatric Associates of Winchester
Peter Bullough Foundation
Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum
STARBASE Academy
Summit Events Co.
The Kids Club of Northern Shenandoah Valley
The Yellow School House
Thrive Under Five
Top of Virginia Regional Chamber
United Way of the Northern Shenandoah Valley
Valley Health
Virginia Ed Strategies
Winchester Book Gallery
Winchester Education Foundation
Winchester Department of Social Services
Winchester Public Schools
Worlds Away Escape
Youth Development Center