Research indicates that students who don’t read proficiently by third grade are four times more likely to leave school without a diploma when compared to proficient readers. With financial support from the YMCA Annual Campaign, the Y is able to meet this literacy need within the community.

The YMCA Y-READ program serves as a prevention tool and has positively impacted the lives of Warrick County third grade students who have been considered at-risk of not passing the state mandated IREAD-3 exam (Indiana Reading Evaluation And Determination).

The primary focus of the program is to improve reading levels, develop character, improve social skills among participants, and the ultimate goal for third grade students to pass the IREAD-3 exam and be prepared for advancement to the fourth grade.

The program serves six schools in Warrick County: Loge, Chandler, Sharon, Newburgh, Elberfeld, and Oakdale.

Students are identified by school administration and teachers, to participate in the after-school tutoring sessions.

With a 1:7 teacher to student ratio, students receive important personal instruction from licensed teachers. Students are expected to attend at least 85% of the program and are asked to complete pre and post STAR assessments at the beginning and end of the program to gauge efficacy of the program.

Donations to the YMCA Annual Campaign help make this important literacy program possible. For the spring 2016 Y-READ program, 111 students at 6 Warrick County schools were provided additional enrichment and literacy skills needed to pass the IREAD-3 exam.

Of 2016 Y-READ participants:
- 81% of students had an 85% or better attendance rate
- 82% had a 3.0 or higher STAR Reading score
- 89% PASSED the IREAD-3 test

Tynesha McGlown
Program Director,
YMCA Community Outreach

The Y-READ program gave all of our students the opportunity to practice and fine tune their reading skills in a fun environment. It also helped build their confidence prior to them facing this high stakes test.

Kurt Krodel, Newburgh Principal

The Y-READ program helped prepare my child for the IREAD-3 exam and improved her reading skills…No more late nights at the dinner table.

Y-READ Parent