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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

United Way of Larimer County to Host Tailgate Fundraiser for Child Care Scholarships

Larimer County, CO - United Way of Larimer County will host *Cars Under Stars: A Tailgate for Child Care* presented by Ent Credit Union on Thursday, June 10, 2021, at the Holiday Twin Drive-In (2206 S Overland Trail, Fort Collins). Proceeds will benefit the Larimer County Child Care Fund, which provides child care scholarships for local families struggling to afford quality care for their children.

The public is invited to attend the event, which serves as United Way's annual fundraiser. Attendees can expect distanced socializing, kids' activities, live music from Jason Downing and Lance Ruby of Musketeer Gripweed, and other activities designed to celebrate local child care champions working to increase equity, access, and affordability of high-quality early education in our community. Tickets include complimentary snacks and adult beverages; each car will receive two \$15 concession stand vouchers, and adults over 21 years old will receive a complimentary drink ticket. The gate will open at 6:30 p.m., with the main program starting at dusk (approximately 8:30 p.m.).

Event Details

If you're ready to spend time outside with friends and neighbors while supporting local families, *Cars Under Stars* will check both off your list! The event program will include United Way's annual key-turning ceremony for the Dellenbach Raffle Car, a 2021 Chevrolet Trailblazer LS AWD, and a locally produced short format documentary which explores the critical need for affordable and quality child care in Larimer County. Following the program, attendees will enjoy a screening of the family-friendly feature film, *Hook*.

At the event, United Way of Larimer County will also honor three organizations with community leadership awards:

1. *Philanthropy Award*
2. *Community Collaborator of the Year Award*, honoring two local agencies.

Ticket Information

Tickets are \$40/car for general admission and may be purchased at <https://bit.ly/CarsUnderStarsUWLC/> or by calling (970) 407-7000. VIP tickets are \$75/car and include VIP parking, special giveaways, and more. Parking is limited and early registration is strongly advised. Day-of ticket sales will be accommodated based on availability but are not guaranteed.

About the Larimer County Child Care Fund

United Way of Larimer County prioritizes access to high-quality, affordable child care and in our community. Investing in early care and education produces significant returns on both the economic and social health of our entire community. With the average cost of care in our community exceeding \$1200 per child, per month, providing financial support to families with low and moderate incomes is essential to ensuring a healthy workforce and preparing young children for academic and social success.

Since its inception, The Larimer County Child Care Fund (LCCCF) has distributed nearly half a million dollars to local child care centers and the families they serve. The fund was launched in late 2020 with \$300,000 in federal Coronavirus Relief Funding distributed by Larimer County, as well as private philanthropy dollars raised by United Way. Today, the LCCCF continues to increase access to high-quality care by closing the gap between a family's ability to pay and the amount charged by a provider. Learn more at <https://uwaylc.org/ChildcareFund>.

About United Way of Larimer County

United Way of Larimer County is committed to understanding and addressing the root causes of social and economic inequity across our community through education, financial stability, and addressing essential human needs. Working together, we ensure our community's resilience for generations to come. Learn more at <https://www.uwaylc.org>.

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