

## Class of 2016: Born Learning Trail



This year's class chose to partner with Char-Em United Way and build 3 "Born Learning Trails" in the communities of Boyne City, Charlevoix, and East Jordan. The trails are located at Shanahan Field in Charlevoix, the Rotary Park in Boyne City, and East Jordan Elementary School.

The Born Learning Trail is a United Way public engagement campaign that uses outdoor activities to boost language and literacy development and to help caregivers understand how best to support early learning in everyday outdoor moments, said Alissa Post, Leadership Charlevoix class member.

There are 10 signs on the Born Learning Trail, each including activities such as "Imagine! Create! Pretend!" which encourages the caregiver to spur the child's imagination and storytelling skills, building the child's curiosity and confidence and "See! Say! Point! Read!" which builds letter and sound recognition through word play and rhymes.

"We know that what happens in a child's early years impacts school readiness and success in life," Post said. "We want to help parents and caregivers use everyday outings, including trips to the park to support that learning."