Did you know that children from low-income households are exposed to less language on average than children from higher income households? Language differences in early childhood strongly predict vocabulary growth and intellectual development in elementary school. Given the importance of literacy in childhood, the HDFS Club organized a book drive for a local elementary school. Book reading not only exposes children to more words, it helps stimulate children’s imagination and strengthens relationships with parents and teachers. The HDFS Club decorated donation boxes and partnered with local businesses, health care providers, and community organizations to set out the boxes for several weeks in the fall semester. After about a month of collecting books, the HDFS Club brought the books to a local elementary school where they participated in some book reading activities and children were able to bring home the books.

What is the HDFS Club?
Activities like the book drive are just one example of what the HDFS Club is engaged in that allows students to apply what they are learning outside of class, work as a team, and network with community organizations. So what is the HDFS Club? The HDFS Club is a student organization for USU students interested in the areas of family, consumer, and human development, family life studies, and early childhood education. The purpose of this club is to provide networking, professional development and service opportunities to those interested in any aspect of HDFS.

Participation in the HDFS Club is a great way to meet students and faculty in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies, build your resume through long-term involvement and leadership, develop an understanding of professional opportunities to work with children, adults, and families, and participate in service activities for the benefit of children, adults, and families. Meetings are held once a month and students contribute to organizing club events. The monthly meetings and activities focus on:

- **Service** and provide opportunities for students to learn outside of the classroom or apply what they have learned in the HDFS courses (e.g., book drive, Valentine’s Day at Assisted Living Center)
- **Professional development** opportunities to prepare for future careers (e.g., panel on careers in HDFS, Diversity Panel)
- **Networking** (e.g., meeting other students and faculty in HDFS, working with community agencies)

Why should I join the HDFS Club?
There is no question that students are busy! With classes, work, homework, family, and other commitments, there is a lot to balance. So why should you join the HDFS Club? Because student organizations such as the HDFS Club can impact your student experience in a hugely positive way. Brenna Sorensen, the HDFS Club President (2019-2020) says the benefits of participation include:

1. Great opportunity for networking - Our club is operated by student leaders and is advised by Dr. Aryn Dotterer. Professors and local professionals are eager to work with us on important initiatives and our club is a great way to meet them and make connections! Professionals and USU professors are useful resources as they can help you find career opportunities.
2. Develop friendships within the HDFS major and throughout USU - Students work together to plan and run activities. Long-term friendships are created with other students and community members.
3. Team skills - A student organization creates a great atmosphere for individuals to work together to accomplish bigger goals!
4. Experience - Gain insights that prepare you for your chosen emphasis within the HDFS major. Practical experience within our field of study grows through projects, events, and activities that our club organizes. Activities and events are centered on building experience and service opportunities that look great on your personal resume!
5. It’s fun! - Our goal is to lift others, including ourselves! Making new friends and creating
memories adds to your college experience. Being a part of a group that benefits the community is rewarding and can be the highlight of your college years!

For more information please contact HDFS Club President Brenna Sorensen: brenna.sorensen2@gmail.com or HDFS Club Faculty Advisor Dr. Aryn Dotterer: aryn.dotterer@usu.edu