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 or apply what they have learned in the HDFS courses (e.g., book drive, Valentine’s Day at Assisted Living Center)

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
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