

# Annual Report 2017-2018



Leading Through Reading



**2017-2018 HIGHLIGHTS**



**2017 – 2018**

**OUR MISSION**

To improve the quality of life in our community by promoting and achieving literacy.

**THE VISION**

That every child and adult in Palm Beach County becomes a reader.

**THE NEED**

In Palm Beach County, 1 in 7 adults lacks basic literacy skills.

Adults with low literacy:

- Can't fill out a job application
- Can't read a bus schedule

In Palm Beach County, 44 percent of third grade students read below grade level.

Children who can't read well by the fourth grade:

- Begin to fall behind in every subject, not just language arts
- Are at greater risk of dropping out of school

**ABOUT US**

Through extensive outreach and collaboration with a network of community partners, the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County is dedicated to ensuring that individuals receive the help they need to improve their literacy skills. The Literacy Coalition provides services to 29,000 adults, children and families through 12 programs in 110 sites from Jupiter to Boca Raton to Belle Glade. We teach adults with low literacy skills in the workplace and in community centers. We work with pediatricians to introduce low-income families to the importance of reading with their children. We provide reading partners who share books weekly with three-year-old children to help them blossom into life-long readers. We oversee a home visiting program that encourages verbal interaction and educational play between parents and their preschool children. We coordinate 40 Literacy AmeriCorps members who serve as tutors for children and adults and as graduation coaches to aid struggling high school students. We support and encourage literacy programs and initiatives throughout the county.

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



**Susan Rabinowitz**  
Board President

It has been an honor to serve as President of the Board of Directors for the Literacy Coalition

of Palm Beach County for two years. I have worked, volunteered and raised my four children in this community for the past 20 years and have witnessed firsthand the challenges many of our residents face meeting basic needs for their families including food, shelter and an opportunity for employment. I have also recognized that the path forward for many of these residents starts with enhancing literacy skills.

Having the opportunity to serve in this role for an organization that has been steadfast in its commitment

to promoting and achieving literacy for all adults, children and families in Palm Beach County has been incredibly rewarding.

In a world of change, uncertainty, and, in some cases, fear, it is more important than ever that we work together to build stronger communities, and it all starts with literacy. This year through providing leadership and guidance to community partners, expanding and developing volunteer tutors, and increasing community engagement through our ReaderCorps program, this organization is making a real difference. A sincere thanks to each and every board member who gives so selflessly of their time to be part of the solution as we broaden our reach and close the gaps in literacy achievement.

Thank you to all our partners, volunteers, and friends who have



*Susan with author Will Schwalbe at the 27th Annual Love of Literacy Luncheon.*



*Stephanie Glavin from Bank of America, Kristin Calder and Susan Rabinowitz at the LOOP for Literacy event.*

committed time and resources to support the efforts of this organization. The following pages will highlight what we have accomplished together this year.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



**Kristin Calder**  
Chief Executive Officer

Thank you to the Literacy Coalition board of directors, staff, volunteers, donors

and partners who work tirelessly and passionately to improve the quality of life in our community by promoting and achieving literacy. In the pages of this report, you will learn more about our literacy efforts we've made, successes we've shared and the many ways we've celebrated literacy in 2017-18.

Through extensive outreach and collaboration with a network of community partners, the Literacy Coalition has provided programs and services to those in our community who need to improve their literacy skills. We distributed more than 100,000 books this year

to adults, children and families through our programs.

We have promoted reading and shared a love of literacy through initiatives and events featuring authors Will Schwalbe, Scott Eyman and Fredrik Backman. We collected and gave away thousands of books to community partners, schools and organizations from donated books from individuals and book drives including more than 10,000 books from the Office Depot Employee Book Drive.

All of this would not be possible without the members of our community who support our programs, initiatives and events to support our mission and vision. We recognize our many generous funders and partners in this report. Our impact and reach are increased with your help and we thank you. We also give special thanks to



*We are grateful to the hundreds of community members who attend our tutor trainings and give of their time to help us build better readers in our County.*



*Thanks to Office Depot for their outstanding book donation.*

Margaret Blume and Brenda Medore for their generous support of our Blume Literacy Center for Education, Training and Outreach on the Brenda and C.P. Medore Campus, which this year celebrated 5 years.

## CELEBRATIONS

### 5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE BLUME LITERACY CENTER

The Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County celebrated the 5th anniversary of the Blume Literacy Center for Education, Training and Outreach on the Brenda and C.P. Medore Campus in Boynton Beach on June 20.

The Coalition hosted a reception for donors who made the 12,000 square foot center possible, and for board members, volunteers and staff who continue in their dedication to help support the Coalition's mission to improve the quality of life in our community by promoting and achieving literacy.

"We are grateful to the many supporters who helped make the dream of a permanent home for literacy in Palm Beach County become a reality," said Kristin Calder, Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County CEO. "As we look to the next five years and beyond, we will continue to bring organizations together, identify literacy needs, help provide solutions, and raise funds and awareness in support of a more literate community."

### 5 YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

The Blume Literacy Center has enabled the Coalition to further expand our education, training and outreach to the adults, children, youth and families we serve. We have brought education leaders together to share resources, exchange ideas and ultimately work together in supporting literacy programs and initiatives.

About half-a-million books have been stored at the Center and distributed through our programs. Additionally, we have given away another 45,000 books to community partners from donations from thoughtful individuals and community book drives.

The Coalition provides "Tutor Trainings" at the Center for hundreds of volunteers who work with adults or children in schools, libraries, organizations and even at our Blume Literacy Center.

The Coalition's 40 Literacy AmeriCorps members, who serve as graduation coaches, mentors and reading tutors at sites throughout the county, train at the Blume Literacy Center. In five years, the members have collectively amassed an incredible 41,424 hours of training at the center.

The Coalition has also celebrated reading through events at the Center for youth and adults with authors, including *New York Times* bestselling authors James Patterson, Scott Eyman and Hollywood legend Robert Wagner.

NOW



*Donors celebrated at the 5 Year Anniversary of the Blume Literacy Center on June 20, 2018.*

With 19 offices, conference rooms, a training room, a library and a book distribution center, the Literacy Coalition staff is flourishing in The Blume Literacy Center on the Brenda and C.P. Medore campus as we serve 27,000 adults, children and families throughout our county.

THEN



*The Capital Campaign Committee at the Blume Literacy Center opening on June 20, 2013.*



# LITERACY INITIATIVES

## READ TOGETHER PALM BEACH COUNTY



Thousands of adults, partners and sponsors joined the Literacy Coalition in the 9th Read Together Palm Beach County Campaign, a *one book, one community* initiative in which adults throughout the County read the same book at the same time. More than 30 events were hosted October through December at libraries, coffee houses, theaters and offices to bring the community together to discuss key themes in the book.

Our 2017 title was *A Man Called Ove*, a *New York Times* best selling novel by Fredrik Backman about ordinary people learning how to live together in a community. It explores themes of youth, aging, loss, reconciliation and redemption. We also celebrated Sweden, the backdrop of the book and home country of the author.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CAMPAIGN:

- "Fika" breaks, book discussions and coffee and treats were available at Johan's Joe.
- A staged reading was performed at Palm Beach Dramaworks.
- SAS contributed two tickets to Sweden.



Lynn Kalber, Dr. Regine Bataille, Carol Rose, Book Selection Chair Laurie Gildan, Aurora Arthay and Read Together Campaign Chair Sharon Hill.

- Author Scott Eyman interviewed Fredrik Backman via Skype from the Hagen Ranch Road branch Library.

Thank you to our sponsors: AT&T, Ed Morse Automotive Group, Greenberg Traurig, LLP, SAS (Scandinavian Airways), Travel Leaders of the Palm Beaches.

## READ FOR THE RECORD



The Literacy Coalition celebrated the 2017 Read for the Record on October 19 by coordinating 415 local volunteers to read to 15,696 children at childcare centers and schools throughout Palm Beach County. The campaign helps to highlight the importance of early literacy and celebrate the power of volunteer's reading to children. We are grateful for the local campaign support of PNC Bank.

The 2017 campaign featured the book, *Quackers*, by Liz Wong and the main event was held at the Blume Literacy Center with children from the Literacy Coalition's early literacy and family literacy programs. Celebrity readers Tania Rogers from WPTV NewsChannel 5 and Cressman D. Bronson of PNC Bank read to the children.

Mayors and public officials participated in our annual competition to see which municipality would have the greatest number of community



Literacy Coalition CEO Kristin Calder, PNC executives Cressman D. Bronson, Kim Reckley and Cindy Pilloni and WPTV NewsChannel 5 anchor Tania Rogers.

leader's reading. Thank you to the 224 municipal officials and staff members who read at 113 sites to 12,413 children. The Village of Wellington was the winner for larger municipalities and the Town of Lantana was the winner for smaller municipalities. Honorable mentions went to Boynton Beach, Palm Springs, Royal Palm Beach, Lake Worth and Greenacres. Thank you to everyone who participated.



Palm Beach County League of Cities President Keith James, The Village of Wellington Mayor Anne Gerwig, The Town of Lantana Mayor David Stewart and Literacy Coalition CEO Kristin Calder.

## MAYORS' LITERACY INITIATIVE LUNCHEON



The Literacy Coalition hosted the 10th annual Mayors' Literacy Initiative Luncheon at the Flagler Steakhouse at The Breakers, Palm Beach, in October to provide

updates for Mayors and city officials about literacy and education issues.

Held in partnership with The Palm Beach County League of Cities, Inc. and sponsored by Comcast, the Literacy Coalition encouraged the Mayors and guests to help develop a community of readers in each of their municipalities in various ways including participation in



Mindy Kramer, Comcast, Richard Radcliffe and Keith James, Palm Beach County League of Cities with Tom Streit and Kristin Calder, Literacy Coalition.

literacy efforts like *Read for the Record* and *Read Together Palm Beach County*.

## ADULT LEARNER ESSAY RECOGNITION



"Write a letter to your younger self" was the theme for the Literacy Coalition's Adult Essay recognition initiative held in partnership with the School District of Palm Beach County's Adult & Community Education Department.



Students were recognized for their essays at this year's event.

Nearly 600 students from 25 adult literacy program sites throughout the county submitted an essay. Of these, 350 students attended the recognition event and 10 were chosen to read their essay to the audience. Fred Barch,

Director of the Adult & Community Education Department, represented the District and Carlos Mahecha, of AZTECA 48 and the Sinclair Broadcasting Group, was the featured speaker and emcee.

## READERCORPS



The Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County kicked off its year-long 2018 ReaderCorps program during *Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! 2018* the week of January 22. The mission of ReaderCorps is to provide meaningful service opportunities for children and

teens that make them excited about reading while supporting literacy in Palm Beach County.

Students from kindergarten through 12th grade signed up for free and were rewarded with books and prizes from local businesses for reading for fun. Members also organized book drives, coordinated buddy reading programs, hosted literacy-themed events at their school, formed book clubs and participated in the Literacy Coalition's county-wide Read-a-Thon.



Jake Rymer requested book donations for the Literacy Coalition for his Bar Mitzvah.

# SPECIAL EVENTS

## THE GRAND BEE LITERARY FUN & GAMES



The Literacy Coalition's Grand Bee created a new buzz last November at the 26th annual event in a new location at Center Court at The Gardens Mall. The entertaining evening featured a new format that included not just spelling, but three rounds of literary fun and games. The theme for this year was "Game of Thrones" and points and prizes were awarded for each round with the grand prize trophy presented at the end to Akerman LLP. Bee teams enjoyed a cocktail party and seated 3-course dinner with food selections from Brio Tuscan Grille, Cooper's Hawk and P.F. Chang's and drinks



Co-Chair Kimberly Lea, Kristin Calder, Josh Cohen and Co-Chair Matt Turko.

from Cooper's Hawk, Tito's Vodka and Southern Wine & Spirits. Kimberly Lea and Matt Turko served as Co-Chairs, Dean Lavallee was Honorary Chair and ESPN Radio's Josh Cohen presided as Master of Ceremonies. Thanks again to our partner The Gardens Mall and Bee team sponsors: Akerman LLP, Dr. Evelyn Alba, Cozen O'Connor, Florida Power & Light, Keiser University, Levenger Foundation, NCCI, *The Palm Beach Post*, Park Avenue BBQ & Grille, Tandy and Joe Robinson, TD Bank and WPBF 25 News.



Akerman, LLP Team is the Grand Champion.

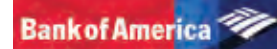


The Cozen O'Connor Team.



The WPBF 25 News Team upon the Throne.

## LOVE OF LITERACY LUNCHEON



The 27th Annual Love of Literacy Luncheon on March 9 featured *New York Times* Best-Selling author Will Schwalbe. An author of three books, he is the former editor-in-chief of Hyperion Books. He founded the recipe website Cookstr and is currently an executive vice president of Macmillan Publishers.

His most recent book, *Books for Living*, was published in December 2016. In this delightful celebration of reading, Will invites us along on his quest of books, which span centuries and genres from classic works of adult and children's literature to contemporary thrillers and even cookbooks. Rich with stories and recommendations, *Books for Living* is a treasure for everyone who loves books and loves to hear the answer to the question: "What are you reading?"



Stephanie Glavin, Brenda Medore, Bernadette O'Grady, author Will Schwalbe, Kristin Calder, Debra Ghostine and Susan Rabinowitz.



Author Will Schwalbe speaking at the Kravis Center.

We thank Bank of America for its 17th year of support of the event as the Presenting Sponsor and Brenda Medore for serving as the Platinum Sponsor. Debra Ghostine

and Bernadette O'Grady served as Co-Chairmen. The Luncheon, held at the Kravis Center, raised more than \$200,000 for our literacy programs.

## LOOP FOR LITERACY



The 8th Annual LOOP for Literacy was held on February 3 at John Prince Park. More than 300 cyclists, runners and walkers participated to actively support literacy efforts in Palm Beach County. More than \$70,000 was raised for our cause. We thank major sponsors: Florida Crystals, the LOOP Presenting sponsor for all eight years, represented by board member Kathy Metzger, and our Gold sponsors Domino Sugar and the Levenger Foundation. We also thank our event Co-Chairmen Len Gray and Larry Katz and founding



The winners of the men's and women's 5K Run.

LOOP Chairman Steve Leveen.

The LOOP event also kicked off a raffle by Travel Leaders of the Palm Beaches and Avalon Waterways for a trip for two on a European River Cruise for two people. The drawing was held at the Love of Literacy Luncheon.

Proceeds supported vital literacy programs that assist children, adults and families in gaining reading and English skills that help them succeed in school and life.



The participants at the start of the 5K event.



Margaret Blume, Steve Carr, Kristin Calder, Len Gray and Larry Katz ready to start the bike event.

## LITERACY LINKS GOLF TOURNAMENT



Golfers teed off on May 22 for the second annual Literacy Links Golf Tournament at Palm Beach Par 3 course to benefit the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County. The golf tournament, presented by Publix Super Markets Charities, raised \$20,000 and included an awards reception, lunch and silent auction. The winning foursome was Anthony Greco, Jim Anderson, Rick O'Shea and Rolo Silva, plus, Donna Brown had a great day of play with a hole in one!



Literacy Coalition Board Member, Nancy Vera, helped to organize the event.



Judy Jokiel, Donna Brown, Stevie Davenport and Linda Reichenstein on the 18th hole, with views of the Atlantic in the background.



The winning foursome Anthony Greco, Kristin Calder, Literacy Coalition CEO, Jim Anderson, Rolo Silva, Rick O'Shea and Tony Chateauvert, Palm Beach Par 3 manager.



The Palm Beach Par 3 is located between the Atlantic Ocean and Intracoastal Waterway.

# ADULT & FAMILY LITERACY

## GLADES FAMILY EDUCATION

After getting married and becoming pregnant with her first child at age 15, Maria and her husband moved to Belle Glade in 2009. Maria got a job in agriculture, planting celery, cleaning and wrapping lettuce, and weeding fields. Working in the fields and not having the English skills she needed to find a less labor-intensive job was frustrating for Maria. She often felt that she was being taken advantage of because she didn't understand English.

A co-worker told Maria about the Glades Family Education Program and she enrolled with her daughter, Sherlyn, who was three years old. For two years, Maria and Sherlyn studied together. Maria's English improved tremendously and her daughter excelled. When Sherlyn graduated from the preschool class, she was well-prepared to enter kindergarten. Maria said, "I was so happy when Sherlyn started kindergarten. She already knew everything and nothing was too difficult for her." Sherlyn is now eight years old, and every year in school she receives academic recognition.

When Maria's son, Ivan, turned three, she knew that she wanted to return to school. She wanted to continue to improve her English skills and she wanted Ivan to be as well-prepared and successful academically as her daughter has been. Maria especially enjoys the weekly PACT (Parent and Child Together) time, when she can see Ivan's participation in school and gain skills to continue to support his learning at home.

Maria is excited about her own increasing language skills, too. After a kitchen accident left her hands badly burned, Maria was grateful to have the English language skills she needed to communicate with her doctors. She says she is confident and brave now. She is no longer afraid to go shopping or attend meetings at her daughter's school.

As her English continues to improve, Maria's goal is to become a US citizen. She has already begun taking citizenship classes as an afternoon elective at Glades Family Education. She said, "Now I can understand and I think I'm ready!"



Maria reading to her son, Ivan.

## VILLAGE READERS FAMILY EDUCATION

Gertha had been an elementary school teacher in Haiti, but, because of her lack of English language skills, was only able to obtain a job as a housekeeper at a Boca Raton hotel. She knew she needed to improve her English in order to be eligible for a more desirable job. In 2013, Gertha enrolled at Village Readers Family Education program where she could study English and her elementary-age son, Claudy, could also participate and receive homework help while she studied. She learned during PACT (Parent and Child Together) time the importance of parental involvement in American schools and she began to understand the educational system in the United States. When her high school age daughter, Cynthia, told her mom that she needed a large number of volunteer hours in order to participate in the International Baccalaureate program, Gertha knew she could turn to her teachers at Village Readers for support. Cynthia began volunteering in the evening for the children's program at Village Readers while her mom attended class.

Over the course of a few years in the program, the family has grown and developed together. Claudy is now in middle school and his family describes him as studious and devoted to his education. Cynthia graduated from the IB program this year with more than the required number of volunteer hours, finishing high school with a 4.1 GPA and earning several scholarships to assist her financially at Florida State University next year. On Mother's Day, she wrote Gertha a letter thanking her for being a role model in her educational pursuits and expressing her gratitude for everything Gertha has taught her. Cynthia is excited to be a college student studying health biology and women's studies, with aspirations to become an OB/GYN.

This year, Gertha started a new job as a custodian at a prestigious private school. She credits the Village Readers program with helping her improve her English and cultural understanding so she could apply to, interview for and ultimately succeed in her new position. Like her daughter, Gertha is ready for the next



Proud graduates, Cynthia and her mother Gertha.

step. She graduated from the Village Readers program in June and plans to enroll in a GED course. Her ultimate goal is to attend college in the United States and perhaps again work as an elementary school teacher.

## GLADES FAMILY EDUCATION STATISTICS

The Glades Family Education program serves adults and children from the Belle Glade, Pahokee and South Bay area. Adults learn English while improving their reading and writing skills. In addition, our learners receive training in job/life skills, parenting, health and financial literacy. They can also attend computer, citizenship, and pre-GED classes in the afternoon. A preschool class operates for the young children of our adult students. Many of them are learning English as well as pre-literacy skills to enable them to succeed in kindergarten.

- The program served a total of 94 adult students and 25 children.
- 85% of adult students who were pre and post tested, made significant gains in one or more tested skills (Reading, Listening and Speaking).
- 100% of the preschool aged children from the program demonstrated improvement in their language, cognitive and early reading skills including print and phonological awareness in a multicultural environment.

## WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

*“I want to learn because I want to help my son and my daughter. I feel so good here.”*

– Antonia, Glades Family Education student

## VILLAGE READERS FAMILY EDUCATION STATISTICS

The Village Readers Family Education program in Delray Beach provides literacy and language instruction for adults and their elementary school-age children. English language learning adult students attend classes in the evening to develop skills to prepare them for further education and enhanced employment opportunities. Their children receive individualized reading instruction in the afternoon and attend an evening children's program with educational enrichment activities during the hours that their parents attend class.

- 109 adults and 45 children participated in the evening program.
- 26 children received afternoon tutoring in reading and comprehension.
- 96% of the children tutored made significant improvement in reading.
- 75% of adults tested demonstrated learning gains in their English language skills.
- 38 volunteers for a total of over 1,100 hours.

## WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

*“This program changed my life because in every class I learn something new.”*

– Irais, Village Readers Family Education student

# ADULT & FAMILY LITERACY

## WORKPLACE AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Kelvin Ellington has been working for the City of West Palm Beach for 14 years, spending the last 6 years with the water distribution department. In accordance with Florida Administrative Code, employees working on water distribution systems are required to have certain levels of licenses, depending on their job duties. For many years, the City has partnered with the Literacy Coalition's Workplace and Community Education program to provide employees interested in attaining licensures with bi-weekly on-site classes to assist them in passing the exams.

When he first began with the department, Kelvin began attending classes with the Literacy Coalition. With the help of the classes, he studied for and passed the first two licensure exams. He was content with his current position and the two

licenses, but his father encouraged Kelvin to try for the third and most difficult Level 1 license. While the Level 1 certification is not a mandatory license, Kelvin recognized the value in furthering his qualifications to advance his career, and decided to go for the final license. After studying on his own, and paying for and taking the exam multiple times without passing, Kelvin remembered how successful he had been on previous exams with the additional help of the classes provided by the Literacy Coalition. Kelvin started attending the classes regularly again, and was thrilled when he passed the exam and earned his Level 1 licensure. One of only seven in the department with all three licenses, Kelvin described his success on the exam as a huge accomplishment. He is now eligible for a supervisory role anywhere in the state of Florida. With two young children and a new baby on the way, Kelvin's priorities are setting a good example for his kids and supporting his family. He is excited about his new eligibility for promotion.



Kelvin proudly shows his Level 1 certificate.

## INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES



### Employer Benefits

- Increased profitability and productivity.
- Improved safety.
- Improved customer satisfaction.
- Increased employee retention.
- Enhanced teamwork and staff morale.

### Employee Benefits

- Increased understanding of job-related materials.
- Enhanced self-esteem and confidence.
- Improved communication with supervisors, co-workers and customers.
- Increased opportunity for career advancement.

## LITERACY AMERICORPS

When I first started working with one of my third grade students, he was reading at a first grade level, struggling academically and facing retention. He lacked the confidence to pick up a book and, when reading, frequently wanted to quit. I worked with him four times a week for thirty minutes a session. Each session brought a new obstacle and a new lesson for the both of us. I learned to think critically and how to access empathy. After only a few sessions, I realized this student's poor reading skills were not entirely due to his lack of understanding and informed his teacher of his possible need for glasses. Within a month, he had his first ever pair of glasses. With a clear view of the world, and a pinky promise to try his best, this student started to progress at a quicker rate than I had ever imagined.

Before I knew it, reading for him became a window into unlimited possibility. He began each session eager to tell me about the story he had read the night before or curious to find out what story we would be reading in our session that day. His

ability to identify compound words, create coherent sentences and read with comprehension became evident in our sessions and by the remarks of his classroom teacher: "You are doing such great work with him. He's come a long way already."

Third graders must take the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) in English Language Arts, which determines their eligibility to progress to the next grade. Before working with me, this student had been unable to keep up the pace with which his peers were learning. He had been unable to read the instructions on the Pre-FSA so he was not on the right track at all. After a few months, when he started showing great progress in my sessions and in the classroom, his FSA readiness also progressed. His "I-Ready score" went up 80% and, according to his teacher, he started volunteering to read aloud in class.

This third grader excelled in and out of the classroom and learned that he can do anything with a little patience and practice. More importantly, this child is confident about, and has a new-found



Vickie Melus tutoring a child.

passion for, reading. He also passed the FSA with flying colors and was promoted to the fourth grade!



Corporation for  
NATIONAL &  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICE



## THE WORKPLACE AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION STATISTICS

The Workplace and Community Education Program provides customized instruction for adults who need help improving their English language skills, obtaining a GED, or addressing specific workplace needs. Classes are provided at workplace and community sites throughout Palm Beach County by trained adult education instructors. Classes are tailored to meet the needs of each particular site and the skill level of the students. The adult learners develop literacy skills to prepare them for enhanced employment opportunities and/or future education.

- 73 adult students participated in classes at 6 sites throughout the county.
  - Faith Farm Ministries (GED).
  - Frenchman's Creek Country Club (Workplace-specific English).
  - Lakeshore Apartments (ESOL).
  - Edward J. Healey Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (ESOL).
  - Summerfields Farm (Workplace-specific English).
  - City of West Palm Beach (GED and Workplace-specific needs).
- 8 students received their GED.
- 3 students passed workplace licensure exams.

## LITERACY AMERICORPS STATISTICS

Recruits, trains and supervises up to 40 members who each contribute 1,700 hours of service in tutoring, mentoring and participating in meaningful community service projects.

- 642 adult learners were assisted with reading, English and employability skills.
- 1365 at-risk youth were coached, tutored and mentored for academic success.
- 135 children received tutoring and literacy enrichment to improve reading skills.
- 168 children and youth were provided with homework help.

## WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

“Many of my students viewed books as a chore at the beginning of the year, but when I gave books as a farewell gift, they actually seemed excited and received them with enthusiasm.”

– Alex, Literacy AmeriCorps reading tutor

## AFTER SCHOOL READS

After School Reads (ASR) continued to expand its STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) curriculum in 2017-2018 by adding lessons with technology. Ozobots, small golf ball sized robots, read and process information drawn by a marker. The robots can change speed, direction and even dance just by following a code drawn by the students. Since the robots follow directions, the lessons were paired with the books, *Miss Nelson is Missing* and *Hooway for Wodney Wat*.

Basing each lesson on a high quality children's book, students launched rockets, designed and built boats, created electrical circuits and experienced the delicious side of chemical change by making and eating waffles. Another new lesson allowed students to study kinetic and potential energy by designing and testing domino reaction chains. The summer of 2018 held even more excitement for students as owl pellets and the book *Stellaluna* were featured in the lessons.

The ASR staff continued to represent the Literacy Coalition on a national level by presenting at the Beyond School Hours Conference, the National Afterschool Association Conference, the CASIS (Center



A student enrolled in Jupiter Elementary's 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) program enjoyed programming Ozobots with After School Reads so much that he asked his mom to take him to the store to buy one with his birthday money so he could continue learning.

for the Advancement of Science in Space) STEM Summit and the National Science Teachers Association STEM Forum and Expo. ASR continues to participate in many local and statewide professional developments, assisting and inspiring sites to include more STEM and high quality literature into their daily schedule.

## AFTER SCHOOL READS STATISTICS

After School Reads brings literature-based reading, science, technology, engineering and math lessons to children in afterschool programs to help them increase their vocabulary and reading comprehension. Through hands-on activities, students are able to make tangible connections between the topic and the text being read.

- 2,000 books were distributed to children and after school sites.
- 800 K-5 children were enriched by the program at 17 sites in 11 cities.

## LEARNING STEMS FROM BOOKS

Members of our ReaderCorps campaign participated in a fun and engaging Stories and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) book fair at the Barnes & Noble Booksellers in Boca Raton. Attendees made keychains with UV sensitive beads, snapped blocks together to complete electrical circuits, explored with tangram puzzles and came together for a story time. The ReaderCorps initiative is open to any K-12 student.



## BUILDING BETTER READERS

Tom has been a Building Better Readers tutor since the program began four years ago. This year he tutored three first grade students at Hammock Pointe Elementary in Boca Raton. Portuguese is spoken exclusively in Millena's home. Understandably, she struggled at the beginning of the year to decode written English words as well as to grasp the nuances of the English language. Tom had her reread passages numerous times to gain fluency and meaning. Through Tom's patience and encouragement, Millena's vocabulary expansion over the course of the year was amazing and she began to actually enjoy discussing the stories they read together. By the end of the year Millena had advanced four reading levels.

Building Better Readers had 137 volunteers tutoring 309 first and second grade children in 22 elementary schools in Palm Beach County and after school during the 2017-2018 school year. Each



Tom, a Building Better Readers volunteer, helps tutor a student.

student in the Building Better Readers program receives 30 minutes of one-to-one tutoring twice a week in the classroom or 60 minutes of one-to-one tutoring once a week after school in reading comprehension with the

same tutor throughout the school year. Each student also receives five new books to take home. This is often the first time these children have ever had their very own book.

## BUILDING BETTER READERS STATISTICS

In Palm Beach County, nearly half of third grade students read below grade level. To address this need, the Literacy Coalition, in partnership with the School District of Palm Beach County, completed our fourth year of providing the Building Better Readers program. We recruit, train and support community volunteers to tutor children with very limited reading skills.

- 276 first and second grade students in 22 schools were tutored by 118 volunteer tutors during the 2017-2018 school year.
- 75 percent of these students were at least 50 percent closer to grade level reading at the end of the school year and 27 percent actually achieved grade level reading.
- 19 volunteers tutored 31 children after school at the Blume Literacy Center.

## WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

*“It's rewarding to feel you are making a difference in a child's life.”*

– Mary, Building Better Readers volunteer tutor



where great stories begin™

## REACH OUT AND READ

Reach Out is an evidence-based early literacy program that promotes early literacy through pediatric clinics by giving books and advice on the importance of reading aloud in well child checkups from birth to five years of age.

When a trusted doctor or nurse offers guidance about reading aloud to infants, toddlers and preschoolers, and provides a book to read, parents have an opportunity to give their children the best start in life.

Jeanne Letsky, MD, FAAP of Pediatric Associates Boynton Beach East says:

“The Reach Out and Read program helps us promote literacy and reading among our patients. Some of the families we see do not have any books in the home. The kids look forward to getting their book with their well child visit and it is a great icebreaker with the family. It especially helps with



Dr. Letsky introducing a young patient to reading at her wellness visit.

the little ones who are scared of a doctor visit. When we come in the

room with a book, it really sets the tone for the visit.”

## REACH OUT AND READ STATISTICS

Reach Out and Read prepares young children for school success by partnering with pediatricians who distribute books and encourage families to read together.

- 48,828 books were distributed at well child check-ups by 74 practitioners at 39 clinics.

## EARLY LITERACY BOOK DISTRIBUTION

Early Literacy Book Distribution provides children's books for families who participate in home-visiting and other early childhood programs.

- 30,538 books were provided to 10 program partners for distribution to families with young children.

## WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

“A father, upon receipt of a baby book... began to read to his son and with every word, baby boy rewarded him with a grin. An amazing moment that was created due to a “Daddy’s Book” provided by the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County through HomeSafe.”

– From a hospital liaison

## BUDDING READERS

According to Reading Partner, Ms. Linda, Sephora has shown great progress since she began participating in the Budding Readers program. At the beginning of the year, when the weekly one-to-one interactive reading sessions began, she lacked book handling skills and exhibited a limited attention span. Sephora rarely commented on the stories or illustrations in the books and she could not name any letters in the alphabet.

What a difference the Budding Readers program has made in helping Sephora blossom into a child excited about books and reading. Now, Sephora is eager for her turn to read with Ms. Linda and to receive the monthly take home book. She is engaged and interested in books and consistently comments and asks questions about the stories. Her recall and detailed retelling of the stories they read together shows good comprehension skill development. She handles books correctly, identifies the parts of a book, and recognizes that print carries meaning. The increase in her alphabetic knowledge is especially impressive. Sephora can now name all the letters of the alphabet and distinguish between upper and lower case letters. She recognizes many letter sounds and when words begin with the same sound.



Linda Warlick reading with Sephora at the Tiny Tikes Academy in Boynton Beach.

Sephora's classroom teacher, Ms. Alean, has also observed the positive impact the program has had on her literacy skills development. She has become an enthusiastic and active participant during group story time, verbally expressing herself with confidence. Ms. Alean commented, “Prior to her participation in the program, Sephora spent little time in the book corner, but now goes there regularly, selects a book, sits down, and takes her time to go through the book, turning the pages one at a time.” Her teacher added that Sephora's mother has also noticed her daughter's increased interest

in learning, reading and the books she receives from the program. She asks Ms. Alean to recommend other children's book titles she can read and share at home with Sephora and her younger brother.

The individualized instruction Sephora received on a weekly basis in a positive, nurturing and literacy rich environment provided through the Budding Readers program, has given Sephora a solid foundation in the school readiness literacy skills needed to prepare her for future success in school.

## BUDDING READERS STATISTICS

Budding Readers is an early literacy program matching Reading Partners with three-year-old children at child care centers for a weekly one-to-one interactive reading session. Reading Partners nurture these “budding readers” to blossom and grow into life-long lovers of books, reading and learning as they work with them to develop foundational early literacy skills needed for future success in school.

- 2 Reading Partners served 41 children at 2 Budding Readers partnership sites.
- 372 books were distributed to children to begin a home library.
- 89% of the children demonstrated development in early literacy skills needed for future academic success in school.

## WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

“Isaiah has learned a lot. He loves to read now and to spell his name.”

– Isaiah's mom, Budding Readers program

## PARENT-CHILD HOME

Taylen's grandmother and mother were concerned about his development as he seemed to be behind other children his age. At two-years old, he was not using words and would often communicate by babbling and pointing.

According to his grandmother and mother, Taylen was very aggressive and would often hit and throw things. His development and behaviors were taking a toll on his caregivers.

After several months in the program, Taylen's behavior improved and he became excited about The Parent-Child Home Program (PCHP). He could finally sit throughout the sessions and focus on the educational books and toys provided by PCHP.

However, he still did not say much. The Early Learning Specialist encouraged his mom to continue being consistent with the home visits and to read and play with him despite her busy schedule.

Midway through the program, Taylen began to count the items in a book during a home session. Mom had tears



Taylen enjoying a new book with his Early Learning Specialist and his mom.

in her eyes. She shared that he had never counted so well or engaged in so much conversation until then.

From that point on, mom was committed to PCHP. She would have the toys and books ready for the sessions, her tone was softer, and she even praised Taylen more during the sessions.

Taylen's mom and grandmother believed that putting Taylen into the PCHP program was a blessing. He has

made huge strides in his behavior and is talking more and more each day. He can now use his words to ask for what he wants and often tells his mom that he loves her.

Taylen will be graduating soon and both mom and grandma are confident that he now has the foundation needed to succeed in school and in life thanks to their participation in this program.

## PARENT-CHILD HOME STATISTICS



The Literacy Coalition provides a variety of programs that support early literacy skills and school readiness. One of these is the Parent-Child Home Program (PCHP), a national, research-based early literacy home-visiting program that builds school readiness skills for two and three-year-old children from low-income families. The Children's Services Council selected the Literacy Coalition in 2009 to begin providing oversight of the Parent-Child Home Program for Palm Beach County. The services are delivered throughout the County by Boys Town South Florida, The Guatemalan-Maya Center and Lake Worth West Resident Planning Group.

- 15,877 home visits were conducted with 585 families.
- More than 4,329 books and 4,304 educational toys were distributed.
- 100 percent of families increased positive verbal interactions.
- 100 percent of children increased positive behaviors.

## WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

*“Both my daughter and I enjoyed this program very much. I can see the difference from when we started. Rayana picked up so many things that are helpful for her learning.”*

– Rayana's mom, Parent-Child Home Program

## TURNING BULLIES INTO BUDDIES

### Books Build Upstanders

*“Roses are red, violets are blue. I stopped bullying, you should too.”*  
– Wylinsky, Grade 4,  
Orchard View Elementary School

At Westward Elementary in West Palm Beach, several students who have completed the introductory lessons from the Turning Bullies into Buddies program are demonstrating how quality fiction can open minds and begin to change behaviors. By reading, discussing and enjoying activities, they have learned how to apply vital bullying prevention concepts to their lives. Julian, a fifth grader, explains, “The books taught me great ways to deal with bullies. The books helped me to be more empathetic.” Three other fifth grade students in his class, Nathavia, Steve and Nick stated, “From now on, (we will) do everything to stop bullying.” The classes “Ended up helping us to solve conflicts in a more peaceful way. Now, when (we) get bullied, (we) know what to say and how to defuse the situation before a fight starts.”

As education standards evolve, there is an increased focus on the importance of literacy across all disciplines with an emphasis on developing students' ability to comprehend and apply content. Daniya, a third grade student Westward Elementary, shares an example of how this reading program has helped her to apply what she has learned. “A girl in my class always got bullied and I did not do anything until now. Today, this girl was bullying her



Front Row: Basmaiah, Oliver, Back Row: Kerby, Rodney, Faith and Wylinsky.

and she started crying. I walked over and helped her.”

Students at Orchard View Elementary in Delray Beach also finished the program feeling empowered. Perhaps fourth grader, Rodney, says it best, “I'm happy when someone else has my back.” Because of Turning Bullies into Buddies, many of Rodney's classmates are ready to do just that. They are ready to intervene or get help. Basmahah says, “These books make me think about people that are getting bullied and to stand up for them.” Kerby says, “I learned not to join in or to not even stand by someone who is bullying another person. I learned to stand up for others and make a difference.” The youngest, Luis and Oliver, two students from the second grade class, say it is simple, “Look out for others and stick together.” For example, “When someone is sitting alone, go join them. Be a buddy!”

## TURNING BULLIES INTO BUDDIES STATISTICS

Turning Bullies into Buddies brings a social emotional learning curriculum, using high-quality children's literature, to children in afterschool and summer camp programs.

- 22 sites participated in the program.
- 325 classes were provided.
- 1,148 children received direct instruction.

## WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

### PINK SHIRT DAY

*On February 28, 2018, Pink Shirt Day was celebrated throughout Palm Beach County to bring awareness of bullying while making new friends with this year's theme of “Many Cultures, One Community”*



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# FINANCIAL REPORT

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION As of June 30, 2017

<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash and Investments	\$2,599,334
Grants and Allocations Receivable	292,298
Pledges Receivable	144,882
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets	26,876
Property and Equipment, Net	2,973,176
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$6,036,566</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	
Accounts Payable	\$204,961
Accrued Compensation	68,504
Deferred Revenue	1,700
Refundable Advance	150,000
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$425,165</b>
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	\$5,135,232
Temporarily Restricted	476,169
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>5,611,401</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$6,036,566</b>

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

<b>REVENUES AND PUBLIC SUPPORT</b>	
Gifts and Grants	\$4,211,169
Special Events	363,812
Investment Income	2,955
Contributions In-kind	269,379
Program Service Fees	238,148
<b>TOTAL REVENUES AND PUBLIC SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$5,085,463</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Programs	\$4,580,037
Management and General	260,674
Fundraising	310,706
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$5,151,417</b>
Change in Net Assets	(\$65,954)
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	5,677,355
<b>Net Assets at End of Year</b>	<b>\$5,611,401</b>
Percent Used for Fundraising	6%

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**Front Row:** Nancy Birardi, Diane Pacheco, Kristin Calder, New York Times Best-Selling Author, Will Schwalbe, Megan Bob and Audrey McDonough. **Back Row:** Brad Hertzberg, Dawn Larkin, Jeanne Heavilin, Cobi Dunn, Molly Felmet and Connie Hoke.

### BLUME LITERACY CENTER

**Kristin Calder**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Nancy Birardi**  
Turning Bullies into Buddies  
Manager

**Megan Bob**  
Director of Education & Family  
Literacy

**Cobi Dunn**  
Director of Parent-Child Home

**Molly Felmet**  
Reach Out and Read Coordinator

**Meredith Fraysure**  
After School Reads Manager

**Jeanne Heavilin**  
Building Better Readers Manager

**Brad Hertzberg**  
Literacy AmeriCorps Manager

**Connie Hoke**  
Operations and Project Coordinator

**Patricia Junior**  
Director of Finance

**Dawn Larkin**  
Communications Coordinator

**Audrey McDonough**  
Director of AmeriCorps

**Imelda Neary**  
Inventory Specialist

**Diane Pacheco**  
Chief Operating Officer

### Jeanne Siccone

Director of Children's Literacy

### BUDDING READERS PARTNERS

**Linda Warlick**  
**Mattie Williams**

### GLADES FAMILY EDUCATION

**Ana Alvarez**  
Coordinator

**Laura Calderon**  
Coordinator

**Alejandro Garzon**  
Manager

**Elidia Guzman**  
Assistant Coordinator

### VILLAGE READERS FAMILY EDUCATION

**Amy Fuller**  
Children's Program Coordinator

**Gail Griffis**  
Assistant Coordinator

**Siena Mayers**  
Children's Program Manager

**Cynthia Michelet**  
Children's Program Assistant

**Simeon Nerelus**  
Career Coach/Enrollment &  
Testing Coordinator

**Jenny Ramon**  
Assistant Coordinator

### WORKPLACE AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS

**Gerri Malcolm**  
**Janet Ellis**

### LITERACY AMERICORPS

Natalia Beadle  
Adam Burak  
Kensie Bureson  
Earvin Casciano  
Tia Crawford  
Laura Rae D'Angelico  
Kalynn Davis

Gloria Esguerra  
Billy Fenton  
Allison Fitzmaurice

Allison Flores  
India Graves  
Amber Jadus

Noadia Jean-Baptiste  
Berling Joseph  
Aaron Klier

Chante' Martin  
Vickie Melus  
Katrina Miller

Christopher Montalvo  
Glorieuse Norzea  
Corrinne Ols

Enrique Orosco  
Alexandra Papell  
Deanna Peterson

Mitchel Robinson  
Alexander Ruger  
Whenzdjyny Simon

Sh'nelle Stewart  
Jasmine Vice  
Ellyn Zarek

David Zatyko

## ADVISORY PANEL

**Margaret Blume**  
Community Volunteer

**Tim Burke**  
*The Palm Beach Post*

**Laura Corry**  
South Florida  
Water Management District

**Douglas Crane**  
Palm Beach County Library System

**Nancy Dockerty**  
Dockerty Romer & Co.

**George Elmore**  
Hardrives

**Stephanie Glavin**  
Bank of America

**Gale Howden**  
Founding President, Literacy Coalition

**Leanna Landsmann**  
Scripps Florida

**Steve Leveen**  
Levenger Foundation

**Brenda Medore**  
Community Volunteer

**Tandy Robinson**  
Goldman Sachs

**Dr. Kevin Ross**  
Lynn University

**Tim Snow**  
The George Snow Scholarship Fund

**Samantha Vassallo**  
SunTrust

**Anne and Peter Vegso and Kim Weiss**  
HCI Communications

# HOW YOU CAN HELP

## Volunteer

You can volunteer to tutor an adult or child in need of literacy skills. There are also opportunities to help an adult learn English and/or prepare to take the GED exam. No experience is required as we will provide training.



## Book Drives

Organizations and individuals can conduct book drives for the Literacy Coalition. The books that are collected are used with the children's literacy programs operated by the Literacy Coalition such as Budding Readers or Reach Out and Read or distributed to partner agencies serving economically disadvantaged children.



## Make a Donation

You can help many of our neighbors in Palm Beach County change their lives and establish a legacy of literacy for their families. Your tax-deductible donation will provide literacy services to adults, children and families who are working to achieve a better life by improving their literacy skills. Ask us about other ways to give including planned giving and stock transfers.



## Attend an Event

There are various events to attend throughout the year that support our literacy programs and initiatives. Events include Loop for Literacy, the Love of Literacy Luncheon, The Grand Bee Literary Fun & Games and Literacy Links Golf Tournament.



## Read to a Child

Read together everyday. Point out print everywhere. Do not limit yourself to reading books with your child. Street signs and cereal boxes count too. Tell your child how much you enjoy reading with him or her. This attention lets them know they are special and loved.



## Promote Literacy

You can support the mission of the Literacy Coalition and become an advocate for literacy. Share our posts and information on your social media accounts.

Follow [LiteracyPBC](#) today!



## 2017-2018 HIGHLIGHTS



Thank you  
for supporting literacy!



The Blume Literacy Center  
on the  
Brenda & C.P. Medore Campus  
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[www.LiteracyPBC.org](http://www.LiteracyPBC.org)