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, 46 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

LITERACY COALITION RECOGNIZED IN TOP 1% OF CHARITIES NATIONWIDE
The Literacy Coalition has earned our 11th consecutive 4-star rating from Charity Navigator. Receiving four out of a possible four stars indicates that our organization adheres to good governance and other best practices that minimize the chance of unethical activities and consistently executes our mission in a fiscally responsible way.

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 11 programs in 187 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 up to 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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS
Message from the Board President .................. 4
Message from the Chief Executive Officer .......... 4
Literacy Initiatives ...................................... 5
Special Events .......................................... 7
Literacy Impact ......................................... 9
Adult & Family Literacy ................................. 10
Glades Family Education .............................. 10
Village Readers .......................................... 11
Workplace and Community Education ............ 12
Literacy AmeriCorps .................................. 13
Children’s Literacy ...................................... 14
Stories and STEM ...................................... 14
Building Better Readers ............................... 15
Reach Out and Read .................................... 16
Early Literacy Book Distribution .................. 16
Budding Readers ........................................ 17
ParentChild+ ............................................. 18
Read! Lead! Succeed! .................................. 19
Annual Donors .......................................... 20
Partners ..................................................... 22
In-Kind Contributors .................................. 23
Financial Report ........................................ 23
Board of Directors ...................................... 24
Literacy Coalition Team ................................ 25
How You Can Help ...................................... 26
GREETINGS

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

My first year as President of the Board of Directors of the Literacy Coalition has been challenging, eye-opening, very rewarding, fun, and, above all, inspiring. While there are many individuals and groups that are essential to the successes of the Literacy Coalition, I would like to dedicate this space, this year, to our volunteer Board of Directors.

Our Board, a diverse representation of community leadership, business interests, advocates for education and social change, and dedicated volunteers from across the County, has contributed much to the great accomplishments of the Literacy Coalition this past year. The 75 minutes that we spend in a monthly Board meeting is a fraction of the time that these dedicated individuals otherwise give to committee work, events and programs that promote the Literacy Coalition’s mission. I am so proud and so encouraged every day by what this active, talented and committed group of volunteers continues to do for the cause of literacy. Our Board is inspired and truly inspiring.

A great American President once said, “If you go out and make good things happen, you will fill the world with hope.” As you will see from the following pages, the efforts of our Board of Directors, together with the efforts of our committed CEO, a dedicated staff, community partners and volunteers, to make good things happen are ensuring better futures for so many. We are all inspired—and hopeful—as a result.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Thank you to the unmatched Literacy Coalition Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, donors and partners who work determinedly 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 2018-19. 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 promoted reading and shared a love of literacy through initiatives and events featuring authors Jacquelyn Mitchard and Dave Barry. We collected and gave away thousands of books to community partners, schools and organizations from individual and corporate book drives. 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 for a more literate county. We recognize our many generous funders and partners in this report. We also give continued thanks to 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. To all of our funders and donors, our impact and reach are increased with your help and we thank you.

KRISTIN CALDER

THOUSANDS OF ADULTS 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.

ADULT LEARNER ESSAY RECOGNITION

“Describe your favorite day” was the theme for the Literacy Coalition’s Adult Essay recognition held in partnership with the School District of Palm Beach County’s Adult & Community Education Department. More than 1,000 students from 27 adult literacy program sites throughout the county submitted an essay. Of these, 450 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, President of the Palm Beach County Library System, Riviera Beach Public Library, Village of Palm Springs, Mandel Public Library of West Palm Beach and The Palm Beach Post.

LITERACY INITIATIVES

READ TOGETHER PALM BEACH COUNTY

Thousands of adults, partners and sponsors joined the Literacy Coalition in the 10th 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 November at libraries, coffee houses, theaters and offices to bring the community together to discuss key themes in the book.

Our 2018 title was Best. State. Ever. A Florida Man Defends His Homeland by New York Times bestselling author and popular humorist Dave Barry. In his hilarious hit book, Barry takes on all the people who think of the Sunshine State as Flori-Duh. The campaign celebrated all things Florida and also highlighted other Florida-themed books and authors. The Palm Beach Post columnist, author and Florida history buff, Eliot Kleinberg, shared his insights into Florida’s special qualities at several events.

Thank you to our sponsors and partners: Ed Morse Automotive Group, Greenberg Traurig, LLP, City of Boynton Beach, Delray Beach Public Library, and without the members of our community who support our mission and vision for a more literate county. We recognize our many generous funders and partners in this report. We also give continued thanks to 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. To all of our funders and donors, our impact and reach are increased with your help and we thank you.

KRISTIN CALDER

Thank you to Bettina Young, Brenda Medore, Ann Hammer, Laune-Gildan, Gale Hawker, Bernadette O’Grady, Margaret Blume, Maggie Dickenson and Kristin Calder who gathered to celebrate the 5-year anniversary of the Blume Literacy Center on the Brenda and C.P. Medore Campus in 2018.

THE BOARD PRESIDENT

THANK YOU TO THE UNMATCHED LITERACY COALITION BOARD OF DIRECTORS, STAFF, VOLUNTEERS, DONORS AND PARTNERS WHO WORK DETERMINEDLY AND PASSIONATELY TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITY BY PROMOTING AND ACHIEVING LITERACY.
The 2018 Grand Bee Champions, the Cozen O’Connor Team, with Buzzbee BookbEE.

Palm Beach County. Kimberly Lea served as Chairman and WPTV 5 Chief Meteorologist Steve Weagle presided as Master of Ceremonies. Thanks again to our Bee team sponsors: Akerman LLP, Cozen O’Connor, Duffy’s Foundation, Florida Power & Light Co., Keiser University, NCCI, Oasis Outsourcing, The Palm Beach Post, Palm Beach State College and WPBF 25 News.

The 2018 Grand Bee, a buzz last November at the 27th annual event at the Harriet Himmel Theater in West Palm Beach. The entertaining evening featured four rounds of literary-themed trivia and spelling competitions for the coveted first place trophy. The trivia theme was Florida, inspired by the 2018 Read Together Palm Beach County selected title, Best. State. Ever. A Florida Man Defends His Homeland by New York Times bestselling author and popular humorist and columnist Dave Barry. Points were awarded for each round with the grand prize trophy presented at the end to the Cozen O’Connor team. Bee teams enjoyed a gourmet dinner with drinks while raising awareness of literacy needs in Palm Beach County. Kimberly Lea served as Chairman and WPTV 5 Chief Meteorologist Steve Weagle presided as Master of Ceremonies. Thanks again to our Bee team sponsors: Akerman LLP, Cozen O’Connor, Duffy’s Foundation, Florida Power & Light Co., Keiser University, NCCI, Oasis Outsourcing, The Palm Beach Post, Palm Beach State College and WPBF 25 News.

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South Bay
Pahokee
Belle Glade

$200,000 for our literacy programs. The Luncheon, held at the Kravis Center, raised more than $20,000, and Bernadette O’Grady served as Chairperson. Debra Ghostine served as the Presenting Sponsor and Bank of America was represented by L to R: Sharlene Ali-Raghuraj, Cory Brown, Mindy Nichols, Robin Henderson, Stephanie Glavin, author Jacqulyn Mitchard, Theodore Peroulakis, Susan Rabinowitz and Nikki Morley.

We served 29,000 adults, children, youth and families through our programs

34 Literacy AmeriCorps members provided 57,800 hours of service – teaching, tutoring and mentoring • 617 adults • 1,541 teens • 343 children

We distributed 112,011 books to children, families and organizations

TheLiteracy Coalition of Palm Beach County is dedicated to ensuring that individuals receive the help they need to develop or improve their literacy skills. Annually, we provide services to 29,000 adults, teens, children and families through 11 programs in 187 sites from Jupiter to Boca Raton to Belle Glade. We provide literacy instruction in family education programs and at workplace or community sites. Our Literacy AmeriCorps members teach, tutor, mentor and provide homework help in libraries, schools and nonprofits agencies. Our work with children includes collaborating with pediatricians who advise parents about the importance of reading with their children; providing interactive reading sessions with three-year-old children at child care centers; overseeing a home visiting program that helps low-income parents increase the school readiness skills of their preschool children; recruiting, training and supporting volunteers who tutor children who are struggling readers and teaching literature-based, activity-driven curriculums in afterschool programs and summer camps. Our programs and our impact are highlighted in the pages that follow.

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ADULT & FAMILY LITERACY

GLADES FAMILY EDUCATION

When Rosalba moved to the United States to join her husband, she found not being able to understand or speak English very isolating and often frustrating. Unable to speak for herself, Rosalba felt helpless and was dependent on others to translate for her. She found it especially difficult during her first pregnancy that she couldn't communicate with the doctors. Her husband encouraged Rosalba to attend English classes, and when her daughter Maite turned three, they could attend classes together at Glades Family Education while her mother-in-law watched her younger son, Bryan. Now, after a little more than a year in the program, Rosalba is thrilled with the progress she and her daughter have made. Pregnant with her third child, she is proud to be able to go to the doctor by herself and communicate without a translator, and she loves when her husband compliments her on her improved English skills. Even more exciting, though, is seeing how happy Maite is at school. Every week during PACT (Parent and Child Together) time, Rosalba gets to see Maite’s progress. “Now she knows her letters, numbers, colors, and the months of the year. We have an American neighbor and now Maite can play with her daughter and communicate in English with her. She isn’t shy anymore.” Rosalba will have to take some time off from school when she delivers her baby but she has no doubt that she will return and continue learning with her children as soon as possible. Eventually, she plans to take the GED, go to college, and maybe even become a teacher someday.

VILLAGE READERS FAMILY EDUCATION

In April 2011, Marie left Haiti with her first son to join her husband in the United States. She had studied nursing in Haiti and was working in home health care, but reuniting her family in the United States was a top priority as she was expecting the birth of her second son, Chrisley. Moving to Florida was difficult, especially with the language barrier. When Marie enrolled Chrisley in Head Start at Village Academy, the staff told her about the Literacy Coalition’s Village Readers Family Education Program, where she could attend classes to improve her English and her children could receive literacy tutoring. Marie and Chrisley started attending the program in 2016. Now in the most advanced level class, Marie is proud of all that she has accomplished. “Now I can do everything by myself. I'm not scared to talk. I can go to meetings for my kids, attend parent-teacher conferences and I don’t need a translator.” The conferences she attends for Chrisley are all positive, as he is finishing first grade reading on grade level. “He didn’t like to read, but now he really likes it. He is excited to stay after school and read with his tutor.” When asked about his favorite place, Chrisley said, “The library… because I can read awesome books.” Marie, a strong believer in the importance of reading and education, loves that her son is as excited about learning as she is. When she graduates from Village Readers, Marie’s goal is to take the GED and eventually get a nursing degree in the United States.

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

Village Readers has changed my life. It’s not only a school; Village Readers is a family. For this and more, I say thank you.”

– Maria, Village Readers Family Education student

GLADES FAMILY EDUCATION STATISTICS

The Glades Family Education program serves adults and children from the Belle Glade, Pahokee, and South Bay area. The four main components of the program include adult literacy, children’s literacy, monthly parenting skills workshops, and weekly PACT (Parent and Child Together) activities. Adults learn English while improving their reading and writing skills. A preschool class operates for the young children of our adult students, preparing them to succeed in kindergarten. PACT is a component that allows parents and children to interact and learn together as a family while staff members help parents learn how to support their child’s learning. Once a month, the program brings in outside presenters to offer parenting skills workshops for our adult students to learn how they can best support their children.

• The program served a total of 102 adults and 15 children.
• 89% 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.

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

“Glades Family Education is the best step I have taken in my life because this program is more than a school. It prepares us to be better people and to value our family.”

– Danay, 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.

• 110 adults and 40 children participated in the evening program.
• 26 children received after-school tutoring in reading and comprehension (12 hours or more).
• 92% of the children tutored made significant improvement in reading.
• 74% of adults tested demonstrated significant learning gains in their English language skills.
• 39 volunteers contributed 1,787.5 hours of service.

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

www.LiteracyPBC.org

10  
Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County  
www.LiteracyPBC.org  
11
WORKPLACE AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Even though Belen had studied English in Paraguay, putting her English to use at work in the food and beverage department at Frenchman’s Creek for her internship proved challenging. Understanding the American accent of club members, and having the confidence to speak English with them, was difficult, and there were some key vocabulary words that caused some confusion. “I knew lemonade, but I didn’t know Crystal Light. And what is seltzer water?” Belen was excited to learn about the Literacy Coalition’s Workplace English class offered through Frenchman’s Creek. The time spent in class reviewing the various menus and food items, along with the grammar instruction and speaking practice, helped Belen and her classmates gain the language skills and confidence they needed to be successful at work. Another student, Jessica, shared, “Class is free, without being worried about messing up at work.” The students aren’t the only ones recognizing the benefits of the weekly classes. The human resources management notices the employees’ increased ease in communicating and they love hearing the compliments from club members on the international staff’s English. “For us, the best part of the class is that we can customize the program to meet our needs and our level of service.”

LITERACY AMERICORPS

“Because I worked with high school seniors who were not on track to graduate, most of my students were fighting against the current. The odds were often not in their favor because they had more work to do than other high school seniors. However, it was my purpose to fight for them and to stack the odds in their favor.

One particular student, with whom I connected strongest of all, brought me such joy when he walked across the stage to receive his diploma. When I first met him, Michael was far behind in classes, quiet, and depressed. The first day we met, he didn’t look me in my eyes once and wouldn’t crack a smile even when I tried my hardest to brighten him up. I knew that he was going to be one of the students who would be hardest to get to graduate.

However, through the next couple of meetings, Michael opened up to me and we began to connect. This is when we really got the ball rolling and he allowed me to push him to be greater. He told me that he is the youngest of his seven brothers and sisters. He has siblings who are dead, due to gang related violence, and others in jail. Teachers knew of his family and his habits, and many told him over and over that he was not going to graduate. That did not stop our path toward greatness. He knew better than to listen to them, and I always told him that he was above the negativity. At our most productive, Michael was completing assignments and classes left and right. It was magical seeing a student go from never taking much pride in his work, to reaching out to me to tell me about his progress. On graduation day, he told me with a grand smile on his face, ‘Without you I wouldn’t have been able to graduate.’ A student who had nobody in his corner at the beginning of the year and the odds stacked against him was able to graduate with a sense of direction and a new friend at the end of the year because of the work that we do.”

– Josiah Leach, Graduation Coach

THE LITERACY COALITION

Why we do what we do

The very first day I tutored one of the third graders, at the end of her session, she said that was “the best day ever.” The kids truly enjoy having that one-to-one time and learning new things.”

– Diana Carrillo, Literary AmeriCorps Reading Tutor

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.

• 617 adult learners were assisted with reading, English and employability skills.
• 1,541 at-risk youth were coached, tutored and mentored for academic success.
• 200 children received tutoring and literacy enrichment to improve reading skills.
• 143 children and youth were provided with homework help.

THE LITERACY COALITION

Why we do what we do

“Getting my GED was an accomplishment that I never thought was possible, but now that I have it, it opens up so many opportunities.”

– Joey, Faith Farm Ministries student

Students Dayanna and Belen with their instructor

Frenchman’s Creek students with instructor Gerri Malcolm

The Literacy Coalition has provided English classes for the food and beverage staff on J1 visas at Frenchman’s Creek Country Club since November of 2008.

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.

• 88 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)
• 4 students received their GED

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

The kids truly enjoy having that one-to-one time and learning new things.”

– Diana Carrillo, Literary AmeriCorps Reading Tutor

Members were recognized by the Special Olympics as the Volunteer Group of the Year.

Josiah with one of his students

Josiah Leach, Graduation Coach, with one of his students

www.LiteracyPBC.org

13

12 Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County

13

12 Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County
STORIES AND STEM
For 16 years, the Literacy Coalition and Prime Time Palm Beach County partnered to bring After School Reads, an Extended Learning Opportunity, to children enrolled in after-school programs throughout Palm Beach County. Afterschool directors were given the opportunity to choose from among several literacy-based curriculums. Over time, it became clear that the directors saw the value in bringing literacy-based STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) instruction to their sites as that curriculum was the most frequently requested. In 2018, the partnership between the Literacy Coalition and Prime Time was renewed with an intentional focus as After School Reads became Stories and STEM. Stories and STEM (SAS) continues the tradition of providing high-quality, literacy-based instruction. Based on a piece of literature, students create domino chain reactions, program robots, explore with magnets, dissect owl pellets, make waffles and launch stomp rockets. A student at Palmetto Elementary declared her rocket, “Awesome Possum!”

SAS continued to represent the Literacy Coalition on a national level by presenting at the Beyond School Hours Conference in Atlanta. The program also participated in a STEM training day for the employees of the Chicago Public Library System. SAS continues to participate in many local and statewide professional development opportunities, assisting and inspiring sites to include more STEM and high quality literature into their daily schedule.

STORIES AND STEM STATISTICS
Stories and STEM brings literature-based science, technology, engineering and math lessons to children in after-school programs. Through hands-on activities, students are able to make tangible connections between the topic and the text being read.

• More than 2,500 books were distributed to children and after school sites.
• 879 K-5 children were enriched by the program at 19 sites in 11 cities.

BUILDING BETTER READERS
The Building Better Readers program has grown from 76 volunteers tutoring 241 first and second grade students in 17 schools in 2015 to 187 volunteers tutoring 393 children in the past year. We have also expanded the program by offering tutoring during the summer at our Blume Literacy Center. Altelia, one of our after school students, began the program two years ago. She was reading at a kindergarten level “A” during most of first grade and didn’t seem to be very interested in reading. She continued in our after school tutoring program in second grade with her tutor, Jennifer. Altelia and Jennifer developed a wonderful relationship and, with a lot of patience, encouragement and learning that reading can be fun, Altelia completed second grade this year at a level “M”–grade level!

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

• 357 first and second grade students in 23 schools were tutored by 166 volunteer tutors during the 2018-2019 school year.
• 21 volunteers tutored 36 children in first through fourth grade after school at the Blume Literacy Center.
• 77 percent of the children were at least 50 percent closer to grade level reading at the end of the school year and 34 percent actually achieved grade level reading.

“...It was especially rewarding to watch the excitement on students’ faces as they discovered the joy of reading. They were so proud of their own progress...”

– Ellen, Building Better Readers volunteer tutor, Galaxy E3 Elementary

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

www.LiteracyPBC.org
Reach Out and Read is an evidence-based program that promotes early literacy through pediatric care by giving books and advice on the importance of reading aloud at 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.

Regine Batalle, MD, of Gentle Medicine Associates in Delray Beach, says: “Giving books at the checkups helps me with my developmental assessment of the patient and provides an early start with reading.

In the beginning, we are teaching parents how important it is to read with the children, but the kids take to it so fast, the parents start to enjoy reading with the children, and they are even homeless. The therapists have very few resources and some are all components of the Prenatal Plus Program.

Prenatal Plus MHS provides in-home counseling to women through their pregnancy until after the birth of their infant. Many of these women have very few resources and some are even homeless. The therapists bring the books to the therapy sessions to give to the expectant mothers. These books are vital for many different reasons as the topics of the books are strategically chosen. There are books about being a “big brother” or “big sister.” This helps the parents prepare the children for a new sibling. Some books are about “sharing” and feeling loved at a time when the parents may be challenged by the preparation for a new infant.

These books provide the parent with a book to read to their child, providing them with an opportunity for “one to one” time with their child. There are books for children that may experience the loss of the infant for which they have waited so long. These books are making a difference in the lives of the families served by the program today and for the years to come.

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 lifelong 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 34 children at 2 Budding Readers partnership sites.
• 355 books were distributed to children to begin a home library.
• 90% of the children demonstrated development in early literacy skills needed for future academic success in school.

Budding Readers Statistics

REACH OUT AND READ

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

• 53,321 books were distributed at well child checkups by 84 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.

The Prenatal Plus is a program of the Center for Family Services of Palm Beach County and is funded by the Children’s Services Council of Palm Beach County. Prenatal Plus Mental Health Services (MHS), nursing and nutritional services are all components of the Prenatal Plus Program.

Prenatal Plus MHS provides in-home counseling to women through their pregnancy until after the birth of their infant. Many of these women have very few resources and some are even homeless. The therapists bring the books to the therapy sessions to give to the expectant mothers. These books are vital for many different reasons as the topics of the books are strategically chosen. There are books about being a “big brother” or “big sister.” This helps the parents prepare the children for a new sibling. Some books are about “sharing” and feeling loved at a time when the parents may be challenged by the preparation for a new infant.

These books provide the parent with a book to read to their child, providing them with an opportunity for “one to one” time with their child. There are books for children that may experience the loss of the infant for which they have waited so long. These books are making a difference in the lives of the families served by the program today and for the years to come.

Budding Readers

Mia is a success story, a delightful little girl who made tremendous progress by participating in the Budding Readers program. At the beginning of the school year, Mia, an English Language Learner, was shy and reticent to speak in her class at the Opportunity Early Childhood Education and Family Center. However, Mia was always eager to come to her Budding Readers weekly reading session with her Reading Partner, Mrs. Williams, and excited to receive the monthly take home book. She was attentive, cooperative and enjoyed learning.

Mia learned to handle books correctly, identify the parts of a book and distinguish between texts and pictures. She learned to spell her name, mastered letter recognition of the upper and lower case forms of the alphabet along with many of their letter sounds and correctly name colors and shapes.

Ms. Zandra, Mia’s classroom teacher, observed the positive impact the program had on Mia’s English language acquisition and early literacy skills development. Through the one-to-one individualized instruction and attention
PARENTCHILD+ (Formerly known as The Parent-Child Home Program)

From the start, it was evident to Early Learning Specialist Eleanor Brenisha that the ParentChild+ idea was bright. Saniyah’s mom, Brenisha, was also very dedicated to the program. After completing the program, Saniyah enrolled in a Head Start preschool. After one week of school, the preschool teacher approached Brenisha to ask her what she was doing with Saniyah at home–as she was very impressed with how advanced she was for her age. Saniyah explained that it was ParentChild+ that helped her learn the importance of becoming her child’s first teacher as well as the importance of teaching children at such a young age. She shared that she would have never realized that her daughter had so much potential.

Brenisha immediately applied for the position and was hired in 2018 to replace Eleanor. She cannot stop expressing her gratitude for the program and for the opportunity to continue sharing this treasure with her community in Belle Glade. This year, Saniyah was nominated to be her school’s kindergarten Homecoming Queen. The teacher explained that this nomination was based on Saniyah’s academic achievements, as she was at the top of her class. Saniyah’s success has encouraged her older siblings to push themselves harder in school in the past couple of years and their grades increased significantly. Brenisha says that she cannot wait to start serving other families in the community and use her testimony to encourage their participation in the program.

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

“My Early Learning Specialist is the best! She’s very respectful and professional. This program has been a blessing to my family. I could not ask for more. I am forever grateful to ParentChild+.” – Parent of 3-year-old Christie A.

READ! LEAD! SUCCEED!

Read! Lead! Succeed! empowers youth to contribute to a positive community by addressing social issues with a youth-driven, collaborative project. Afterschool programs and summer camps enrolled with this program select from either the Turning Bullies into Buddies or Literate Leader curriculum. In both curricula, children read, discuss ideas and then lead a collaborative project to experience success in addressing an important social issue, such as bullying, violence, hunger or loneliness in senior citizens. During six sessions at Faith Lutheran Afterschool Program, Literacy Coalition staff increased students’ understanding of what it may feel like to be a senior citizen: physically, emotionally and socially. The children read and discussed literature and participated in activities designed to increase empathy and understanding of the older members of our community. Through these lessons, the children were motivated to create and follow through on an action plan to visit seniors at a nearby adult care center. Their success stunned their staff leader, Zuleyma Cisneros, with the social and emotional skills they acquired though the Read! Lead! Succeed! Literate Leader Program.

ParentChild+ Statistics

ParentChild+ (formerly known as The Parent-Child Home Program) is 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 provide oversight of ParentChild+ for Palm Beach County. The direct services for the program are provided by Boys Town South Florida, The Guatemalan-Maya Center and Lake Worth West Resident Planning Group.

- 16,680 home visits were conducted with 612 families.
- 4,625 books and 4,828 educational toys were distributed.
- 100 percent of families increased positive verbal interactions.
- 100 percent of children increased positive behaviors.

Proud mom, Brenisha, with her daughter, Saniyah

“On our visit to New Day Adult Care, I was unsure how our students would react to the seniors. I felt they would be shy and unsure of what conversations they should start, but as soon as we stepped foot in their building the children began to integrate into the groups among the seniors. At one point, I overheard one of the seniors tell one of the children how glad they were that the children came to visit and how much they enjoyed playing bingo (with them). One of the staff members of New Day Adult Care pointed to a man sitting nearby and told me that she could tell he was having a good time because he never really did much, but that he was participating… This experience was great for me and it made an impact on the children.”

“Whether we do what we do...”

“We are grateful and appreciate the caring notes and Living Hungry gift bags your students packaged to feed snacks to our teens. The story of knowing where they came from shows that (you) are doing the best good for our community by teaching our little people to give back.” – JT, Program Director, Police Athletic League, West Palm Beach
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www.LiteracyPBC.org
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
As of June 30, 2018

ASSETS
Cash and Investments $2,412,169
Grants and Allocations Receivable 481,864
Pledges Receivable 115,900
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets 38,088
Property and Equipment, Net 2,923,580
TOTAL ASSETS $5,971,601

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS
Accounts Payable $211,662
Accrued Compensation 87,393
Deferred Revenue 100
Refundable Advance 150,000
Total Liabilities $449,155
Net Assets
Unrestricted $5,024,628
Temporarily Restricted 497,818
Total Net Assets $5,522,466
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS $5,971,601

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

REVENUES AND PUBLIC SUPPORT
Gifts and Grants $4,227,106
Special Events 349,490
Investment Income 7,287
Unrealized Gain/Loss (12,443)
Contributions In-kind 238,631
Program Service Fees 224,448
TOTAL REVENUES AND PUBLIC SUPPORT $5,034,519

EXPENSES
Programs $4,613,689
Management and General 250,298
Fundraising 299,487
TOTAL EXPENSES $5,123,474

TOTAL CHANGE IN NET ASSETS $88,955
Net Assets at Beginning of Year 5,611,401
Net Assets at End of Year 5,522,446

Percent Used for Fundraising 5%
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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 collected books are shared 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. We also have shared 2,451 of these donated books in the last year to groups in need including teachers, schools and organizations. We have many more requests for gently used children’s books.

MAKE A DONATION
Your tax-deductible donation will help provide literacy services to adults, children and families who are working to achieve a better life by improving their literacy skills.

MAKE A BIGGER IMPACT
Donate long-term appreciated securities, including stock, bonds, and mutual funds, directly to the Literacy Coalition. Compared with donating cash, or selling your appreciated securities and contributing the after-tax proceeds, you may be able to automatically increase your gift to the Literacy Coalition and your tax deduction.

IMPACT FUTURE GENERATIONS
Consider an endowment gift to the Literacy Coalition that will allow us to sustain our impact in our community for future generations. Include the Literacy Coalition in your retirement plans, will, living trust, or related planned giving methods allowing you to extend your legacy of literacy to future generations.

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.

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.

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!
Thank you for supporting literacy!

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