

# LITERACY LEGACY

*Leading Through Reading*

LITERACY COALITION OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

[www.LiteracyPBC.org](http://www.LiteracyPBC.org) • Winter 2018



**HELP US BUILD BETTER READERS**



#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

##### President

Susan Rabinowitz, Bank of America

##### Vice Presidents

Kathy Metzger, Florida Crystals Corporation

Tom Streit, Community Volunteer

##### Secretary

Lynn Kalber, Writer, Editor

##### Treasurer

Sheryl Simon, TD Bank

##### Parliamentarian

Laurie L. Gildan\*, Greenberg Traurig, P.A.

##### Member at Large

Bernadette O'Grady\*, WPTV NewsChannel 5

##### DIRECTORS

Aurora Arthay, Palm Beach County Library System

Dr. Regine Bataille, Gentle Medicine Associates

Matthew Criscuolo, Cozen O'Connor

Maggie Dickenson\*, U.S. Bank

David Fleisher, Lynn University

Debra Ghostine, Community Volunteer

Joe M. Grant, Marshall Socarras Grant, P.L.

Len Gray, Mercer (retired)

Sharon Hill, Community Volunteer

Alma Horne, Martin Luther King, Jr.

##### Coordinating Committee

Julia Jennison, Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A.

Lawrence Katz, Wells Fargo

Bradley Kitchens, NCCI

Dean Lavallee, Park Avenue BBQ & Grille

Kimberly Lea, Keiser University

Andrew Loewenstein, Akerman, LLP

Julian McCarthy, Northern Trust

Ken Montgomery, Barnabas Consulting Group, Inc.

Ginny R. Neal, Merrill Lynch Private Bank

F.J. "Harvey" Oaxaca, School District of Palm Beach County

Carol Rose, *The Palm Beach Post*

Lourdes Sanchez, Om Yoga Wellness Studios

Kathleen Slattery, NextEra Energy

Kenneth G. Spillias\*, Attorney (retired)

Kelly Starling, AT&T

Matthew Turko, Haile, Shaw & Pfaffenberger, P.A.

Nancy Vera, Community Volunteer

Joan Williams, Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart & Shipley, P.A.

Helena A. Zacharis, Palm Beach State College

\* Past President

##### Founding President

Gale G. Howden

##### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kristin Calder

##### 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

Steve Fuino, PNC

Stephanie Glavin, Bank of America

Gale Howden, Founding President Literacy Coalition

Leanna Landsmann, Sustainable Palm Beach County

Steve Leveen, Levenger Foundation

Brenda Medore, Community Volunteer

Elizabeth Neuhoff, Neuhoff Communications

Ava Parker, Palm Beach State College

Jonathan Porges, Boynton Beach Chamber of Commerce

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

Florida Literacy Coalition and ProLiteracy Member

YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS TAX-DEDUCTIBLE TO THE FULL EXTENT OF THE LAW. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 1-800-435-7352 WITHIN THE STATE OR VISIT [HTTP://WWW.FRESHFROMFLORIDA.COM/DIVISIONS-OFFICES/CONSUMER-SERVICES](http://WWW.FRESHFROMFLORIDA.COM/DIVISIONS-OFFICES/CONSUMER-SERVICES) AND REFERRING TO CH3135. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. FEDERAL TAX ID #: 65-0169781. 100% OF THIS CONTRIBUTION GOES TO THE LITERACY COALITION OF PALM BEACH COUNTY.



Only 2% of rated charities across the country have received 4 out of 4 stars for nine consecutive years.

*On the cover:* Emilia McGovern reads to younger students last year at Binks Forest Elementary as a ReaderCorps Book Buddy.



our efforts with the National Campaign for Grade Level Reading. —Kristin Calder

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

**Leading through Reading:** We remain steadfast in leading adults, children and families to gain literacy skills, to celebrate reading and to be empowered to succeed in school and in life.

Through extensive outreach and collaboration with a network of community partners, the Literacy Coalition provides services by our Literacy AmeriCorps and through Adult and Family Literacy programs and Children's Literacy programs like Budding Readers, Reach Out and Read and Building Better Readers, which support

## COMMITTED TO CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

By the age of three, low-income children have heard 30 million fewer words than their middle-income peers.\* By kindergarten the word gap increases to over 40 million and the average low-income child has experienced only 25 hours of one-on-one reading time while their middle-income peers have had over 1,000.\*\*

Without a language and learning-rich home environment, not only are a child's development of language and literacy skills hindered, their numeracy and social-emotional skills are also impacted. They have never been read to or explored a book on their own. Children who enter school this far behind struggle and are more likely than their "ready" peers to drop out.

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.

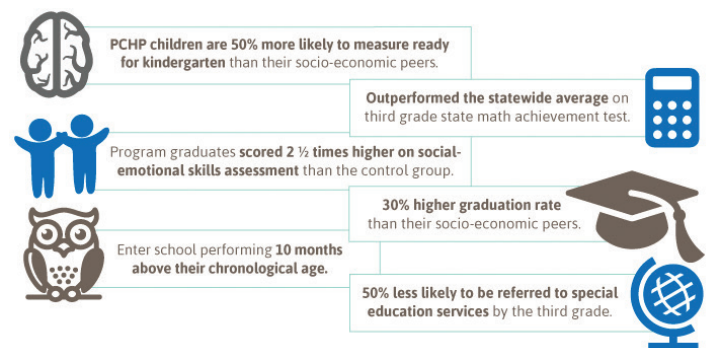
\* Hart and Risley 1995

\*\* McQuillan, J. 1998



Home visitor from Lake Worth West Regional Planning Group, Arexy Bravo, reads with a PCHP family.

### NATIONAL RESEARCH OUTCOMES



### LAST YEAR LOCALLY IN THE PARENT-CHILD HOME PROGRAM

- 17,431 home visits were conducted with 574 families
- 4,488 books and 4,445 educational toys were distributed

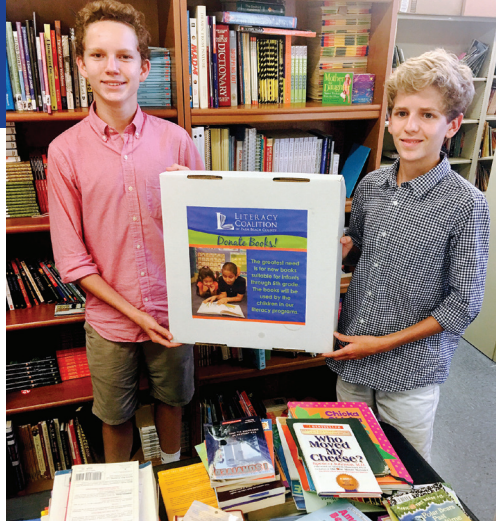


# LET'S READ!

## READERCORPS KICKS-OFF AGAIN

The Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County kicked off its 2018 **ReaderCorps** program during "Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! 2018" the week of January 22 and it will run through April. 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 – whether attending a public school, charter school, private school, or being home-schooled – can sign up for free to be a member of ReaderCorps. Members organize book drives, coordinate buddy reading programs, host literacy themed events at their school, form book clubs and participate in the Literacy Coalition's county-wide Read-a-Thon. Members are also rewarded with books and prizes from local businesses for reading for fun. Kits that provide step-by-step directions for all opportunities are available online at **LiteracyPBC.org**.



Andrew Young and Colin Riley from St. Andrews School brought in donated books from their book drive.



Fifth graders and kindergartners from Binks Forest Elementary School in Wellington formed a buddy reading program, meeting once a week in the Media Center.



The Harry Potter Club from North Broward Preparatory School organized a Quidditch tournament and donated \$500 from the event!

## 2017 READERCORPS FINALE



Literacy Coalition CEO Kristin Calder with Athena and Dorothea Zarcadoolas and author James Patterson at the ReaderCorps finale. Athena and Dorothea were recognized for their terrific Read-a-Thon participation.



The Robert B. Muir Family Foundation sponsored the reading initiative: Robin Muir, James Patterson, Kristin Muir and Skylar Schneider.



### 2017 HIGHLIGHTS:

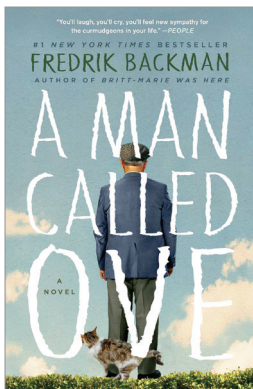
- 300 students enrolled as ReaderCorps members.
- Members received free books and prizes for reading.
- Members earned community service hours for designing literacy-based volunteer projects.
- More than \$15,000 was raised by students in the Read-a-Thon, a partnership with Barnes & Noble book fairs and community donations.
- Members collected more than 1,000 children's books through book drives.



Author James Patterson's presentation to the ReaderCorps Members at the finale celebration was a highlight of the Campaign. He spoke to the children inspiring them to read what they like, and to read for fun. He signed copies of his latest books for the students to take home. School District of Palm Beach County Superintendent Dr. Robert Avossa was also on hand to congratulate the students.



# ONE BOOK, ONE COMMUNITY



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 selected title was *A Man Called Ove*, a *New York Times* bestselling book 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 and book discussions were held throughout the county, including **Tina Maura**, of the **Mandel Public Library of West Palm Beach**, along with complimentary coffee and treats at **Johan’s Joe** and **Park Avenue BBQ**.
- Staged reading at **Palm Beach Dramaworks** with WPTV’s **Ashley Hinson** as the narrator and professional actors, followed by a group book discussion.
- Art After Dark presentation at The **Norton Museum of Art** focusing on the power of a Read Together Campaign to bring a community together.
- Celebrations of Swedish culture including a movie and sing-a-long in honor of ABBA, a book discussion of Pippi Longstocking and an event featuring Nordic Holiday Traditions all at the **Palm Springs Public Library**.
- The book was available with a donation at **Starbucks** throughout the County.
- **SAS (Scandinavian Airlines)** contributed two round trip tickets for a raffle from Miami to Sweden.
- Author **Scott Eyman** interviewed **Fredrik Backman** via Skype from the **Hagen Ranch Road Library** branch.



Kurt Crowl, Laura Olsson, Sharon Hill, Kristin Calder and Åsa Guilamo

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND CONTRIBUTORS:

### READ TOGETHER PBC 2017

#### SPONSORS: AT&T, Ed Morse

**Automotive Group, Greenberg Traurig, LLP, SAS (Scandinavian Airlines), Travel Leaders of the Palm Beaches.**

**CONSULATE OF SWEDEN IN FORT LAUDERDALE:** Honorary Consul Per-Olof Lööf and Honorary Vice Consul Åsa Guilamo.

**BOOK SELECTION COMMITTEE:** Laurie Gildan, Chair, Greenberg Traurig, P.A., **Kristin Calder**, Literacy Coalition CEO, **Dr. Rob Gingras**, Palm Beach State College, **Sharon Hill**, Literacy Coalition Board Member, **Lynn Kalber**, Editor and Writer, **Esther Labovick**, Labovick Law Group, **Tina Maura**, Mandel Public Library of West Palm Beach, **Deborah Nix**, Retired Educator, **Tom Streit**, Akerman LLP, **Christina Wood**, Freelance Writer & Editor.

**CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE:** Sharon Hill, Chair, Literacy Coalition Board Member, **Aurora Arthay**, Palm Beach County Library, **Kristin Calder**, Literacy Coalition CEO, **Lisa Hathaway**, Mandel Public Library of West Palm Beach, **Craig Clark**, Boynton Beach City Library, **Mim Harrison**, Founding Editor, Levenger Press, **Lynn Kalber**, Editor and Writer, **Carol Rose**, *The Palm Beach Post* and **Christina Wood**, Freelance Writer & Editor.

*Copies of the book are still available for a \$10 donation to the Literacy Coalition.*



Lynn Kalber, Dr. Regine Bataille, Carol Rose, Laurie Gildan, Aurora Arthay and Sharon Hill



Sharon Hill, Kristin Calder, Ashley Hinson, Gary Cadwallader and Sue Ellen Beryl



# AmeriCorps...getting things done!



## AMERICORPS PLEDGE

I will get things done for America to make our people safer, smarter and healthier.

I will bring Americans together to strengthen our communities.

Faced with apathy, I will take action. Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground. Faced with adversity, I will persevere.

I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond. I am an AmeriCorps member, and I will get things done.



Members provided 2,400 hours of service during Hurricane Irma at the Special Needs Shelter and Emergency Operations Center.

## What is Literacy AmeriCorps?

Literacy **AmeriCorps** members provide a variety of support services to children, youth, adults and families in Palm Beach County. Members are placed at various locations, called service sites, throughout Palm Beach County. Members may be assigned to family literacy centers where they work with parents and children, library programs serving adults or children, afterschool centers where they tutor children who are underachieving in reading, and adult literacy programs where they teach groups of adults who want to learn English. Some of our members serve at high schools as graduation coaches for students who are at risk of dropping out. One of the advantages of our program is the diverse array of service opportunities our members can experience. When they are not serving at their sites, they are out in the community giving their time to help other organizations with community service projects. To donate support or apply for the program, visit [LiteracyPBC.org](http://LiteracyPBC.org).

“ I have a student who was very unmotivated to read and always came in with a negative attitude. He would cover his face when reading and complain how much he hated reading every day. He was really hard on himself. He didn't feel that he was smart and felt worse when he would make mistakes. He was easily discouraged, but I always found a way to motivate him by explaining that, “You got a few wrong, but look at all the improvement you made.”

After months of tutoring, expanding his vocabulary and fluency, I have seen his attitude, behavior and overall reading ability improve drastically. Our tutoring sessions are very different from where we started. He arrives eager to learn and ready to read. He's even reading at home now, something he never did before. ”

*Tia Crawford, Literacy AmeriCorps Elementary School Reading Tutor*

## WHERE LITERACY AMERICORPS SERVE:

Adopt-a-Family of the Palm Beaches  
Believers Academy  
Boynton Beach City Library  
ED VENTURE Charter School  
Glades Family Education Program  
Mandel Public Library of West Palm Beach  
Palm Beach County Library System  
The School District of Palm Beach County  
SouthTech Academy  
Take Stock in Children  
Village Readers Family Education Program

**The Literacy Coalition's AmeriCorps program recruits, trains and supervises up to 40 members. These members contribute 68,000 hours of service in tutoring, mentoring and participate in meaningful community service projects with partners including:**

American Association of Caregiving Youth/Camp Treasure • Adopt-a-Family  
Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee U.S. National Wildlife Refuge • Boynton Beach City Library • City of Boynton Beach Parks and Recreation • City of West Palm Beach • CROS Ministries • Habitat for Humanity • John I Leonard High School • Keep PBC Beautiful • Locks of Love • Loggerhead Marine Life Center • Mandel Public Library of West Palm Beach • Paint Your Heart Out  
Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management • PBC Food Bank  
Sand Sifters • School District of Palm Beach County • Special Olympics  
Take Stock in Children • United Way of Palm Beach County • Village Readers  
Family Education Program • Westgate Community Farm



# 27TH ANNUAL LOVE OF LITERACY LUNCHEON

FEATURING

## WILL SCHWALBE

NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHOR



FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 2018 • 11:30 AM

Kravis Center Cohen Pavilion, West Palm Beach

Made possible by



The Literacy Coalition is proud to announce that Will Schwalbe, author, entrepreneur and journalist,

will be the speaker at the **Love of Literacy Luncheon**. An author of three books, he was 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 first book, *SEND: Why People Email So Badly and How to Do it Better*, was co-written with David Shipley and published in 2010. The book was reviewed by Dave Barry in *The New York Times*, and became a business best seller.

Will's second book, *The End of Your Life Book Club*, published in 2012, spent more than four months on the *New York Times* Best Seller List. The book is an inspiring story of the book club that he and his dying mother formed, and that brought them together as her life came to a close.

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?"

### SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

PLATINUM SPONSOR — \$15,000

DIAMOND SPONSOR — \$10,000

GOLD SPONSOR — \$4,500

SILVER SPONSOR — \$3,000

TABLE SPONSOR — \$1,500

To see sponsorship benefits, visit [LiteracyPBC.org](http://LiteracyPBC.org)

PATRON TICKET — \$300

- Includes a personal color photograph with speaker at a private reception prior to the luncheon.
- Patron ticket(s) to private reception will be mailed.

INDIVIDUAL TICKET — \$150

- No ticket(s) will be mailed
- Registration is complete upon payment.

### AD SPONSOR

- Half Page \$175
- Full Page \$275
- Back Outside Cover \$1,000

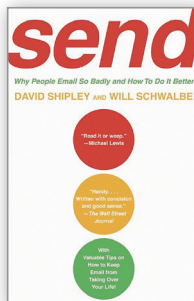
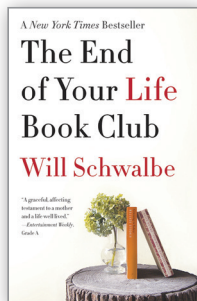
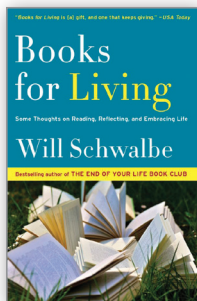
### PLEASE MAIL PAYMENT TO:

Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County  
3651 Quantum Blvd, Boynton Beach, FL 33426



LUNCHEON COMMITTEE MEMBERS (from left to right):

Camilla Sorenson, Co-Chair Bernadette O'Grady, Therese Snyder, Carol Rose, Mim Harrison, Lynn Kalber and Co-Chair Debra Ghostine  
NOT PICTURED: Regine Bataille, Chiara Clark, Maggie Dickenson, David Fleisher, Seran Glanfield, Lynn Imperatore, Stephanie Kahlert, Karen Rogers, Laura Silver, Jorgette Smith, Kenneth Spillias and Bettina Young







RUN, BIKE OR WALK IN SUPPORT OF LITERACY

Saturday, February 3rd, 2018

John Prince Park, Lake Worth

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE LITERACY COALITION OF PALM BEACH COUNTY



## LOOP for Literacy

The community gets active in support of literacy at the February 3rd event at John Prince Park: A 5K Walk, 5K Timed-Run, approx. 40-mile Roadside Bike Ride and a Family Fun area complete with a bounce house, rock wall and more. Follow us on Facebook for more photos.



### SUPPORTING EVENTS



LOOP Leaders Tom Streit, Larry Katz and Len Gray



Kelly Cavaleri, Derek Cooper, Helena Zacharis and Bradley Kitchens

PRESENTING SPONSOR



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS







*Congratulations to the Akerman, LLP Team*



*The WPBF 25 News Team upon the Throne*

# THE LITERACY COALITION'S GRAND BEE TAKES THE THRONE

The Literacy Coalition's **Grand Bee** created a new buzz last October 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 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.



*The Keiser University Team*



*Kimberly Lea, Kristin Calder, Josh Cohen and Matt Turko*



*The Florida Power & Light Team*



*The Cozen O'Connor Team*



*The Palm Beach Post Team*



*The Siccones, The Blumes and Dean Lavallee*



*"King" Joe Robinson*

**STAY  
TUNED FOR  
THE 2018  
THEME AND  
DATE!**



# HELP US BUILD BETTER READERS

The Literacy Coalition provides two important programs with the help of community support. We are in need of funding for both programs, which are integral to helping children learn to read and to helping them develop into lifelong readers.

## BUDDING READERS



Parents go out of their way to tell us how much the **Budding Readers** program has helped their children. The common theme is gratitude as expressed in this comment from a mother:

*"Your program is truly a blessing. It makes me feel great that Julian enjoys reading. It's the biggest stepping stone."*

She's right. This program for three-year-olds provides a critical foundation in the development of early literacy skills to prepare children to succeed in school and in life. By working one-to-one with the children, our Reading Partners incorporate print knowledge, phonological awareness, math, language and vocabulary into each session.

The result is the majority of these children are able to start school prepared and ready – and with a love of books and reading.

The children take home books from their sessions including popular favorites like *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*. The children are excited to start their own home library.

The children's parents receive guides to encourage further reading and sharing of the book along with an activity that complements the book. This promotes interaction between the parent and child centered around reading, while helping parents play a role in their child's development of important literacy skills.

## BUILDING BETTER READERS



What do a retired clinical psychologist, an advertising executive and a paralegal have in common?

A desire to:

- do something meaningful
- help children
- pay it forward
- and be a literacy volunteer tutor

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, is in 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 as part of the program.

In the last year 136, volunteers tutored 299 first and second grade students in 25 schools and 19 volunteers tutored 29 children in first through fourth grade afterschool at our Blume Literacy Center. We are encouraged by the students' progress: 71% of the children met the program's goal to be at least 50 percent closer to reading on grade level by the end of the year. Even better, 51% of the first grade students were reading on grade level at the end of the school year.

*"I brought a level F book for Emmanuel to read and he told me, 'I can't read a level F, it's too hard. I read level E books.' I told him that I was sure he could do it. I said, 'You're going to be able to do this' and he said, 'I am?'" Lo and behold, he read it beautifully with my help, and he was so proud. Then he said, 'Someday, I'm going to read all the way to level Z!'"*

*Building Better Readers tutor — Lori Meyers*

Please consider offering your support to help build better readers in our community. Volunteer, make a donation at [LiteracyPBC.org](http://LiteracyPBC.org) or contact Kristin Calder at 561-279-9103.

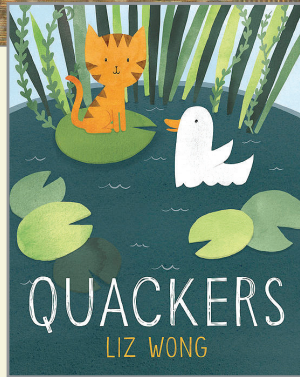


# Volunteers Help Change Lives



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 volunteers 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 leaders reading. Thank you to the 224 municipality officials and staff members who read at 113 childcare centers 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



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



# MAYORS' LITERACY INITIATIVE LUNCHEON



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

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

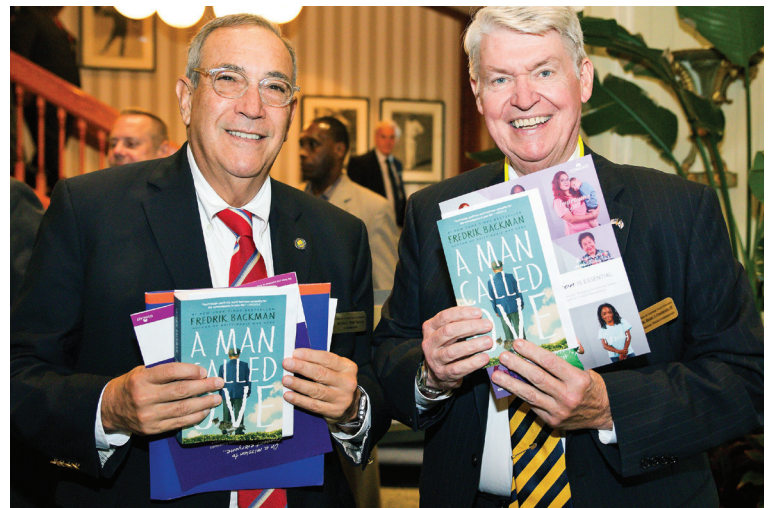
Our 2017-2018 Literacy AmeriCorps members were also involved with the program. They interacted with the Mayors, took their oath of service administered by Literacy Coalition Board Vice President Tom Streit and helped the Read Together Palm Beach County Committee announce the 2017 chosen book.



AmeriCorps members Amber Jadus, Berling Joseph and Vickie Melus with Delray Beach Mayor Cary Glickstein



Village of Palm Springs Vice Mayor, Patti Waller, and Village Manager Richard J. Reade



Representatives from the Town of Jupiter Inlet Colony: Commissioner Milton "Chip" Block and Mayor Dr. Daniel Comerford III



Palm Beach Gardens Mayor Maria Marino and Lake Clarke Shores Mayor Gregory Freebold



AmeriCorps members at the Mayors' Literacy Initiative Luncheon helped the Read Together Palm Beach County Committee announce the 2017 chosen book.





Blume Literacy Center  
on the Brenda & C.P. Medore Campus  
3651 Quantum Blvd.  
Boynton Beach, FL 33426  
(561) 279-9103  
[www.LiteracyPBC.org](http://www.LiteracyPBC.org)

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
West Palm Beach, FL  
Permit No. 2217



OUR MISSION: TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITY BY PROMOTING AND ACHIEVING LITERACY

**PINK SHIRT DAY**  
"ANTI-BULLYING AWARENESS"  
FEBRUARY 28, 2018



**LOVE OF LITERACY  
LUNCHEON**  
MARCH 9, 2018



**LITERACY LINKS**  
VISIT [LITERACYPBC.ORG](http://LITERACYPBC.ORG)  
FOR MORE DETAILS

## Literacy in Palm Beach County

### PROBLEMATIC FACTS

**1 in 7**  
adults in Palm Beach  
County function at  
the lowest level of  
literacy

**46%**  
of our third graders  
read below grade  
level

**12%**  
of adults age 25  
and older do not  
have a high school  
diploma

**17%**  
of the births in 2016  
were to mothers who  
had less than a high  
school diploma

Children who don't  
read well by 5th  
grade fall behind in  
every subject and  
are at greater risk  
of dropping out

# ABCDEF

**24,000**  
children in 37  
pediatric clinics  
received books  
from Reach Out  
and Read

**574**  
families with  
pre-school children  
were visited at home  
in order to promote  
parent-child bonding  
and school readiness

**68,000**  
hours of tutoring,  
mentoring and  
coaching provided by  
Literacy AmeriCorps  
to children, teens  
and adults

**95,000**  
new books distributed  
by the Coalition  
each year to  
children and  
families

## HOW WE ARE HELPING