



ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022



Leading Through Reading



Building Better Readers



Love of Literacy Luncheon



Literacy Links



Read with Me!

**2021-2022
HIGHLIGHTS**



*AmeriCorps -
Westgate Community Farm*



Glades Family Education



Read for the Record



Book Donations



AmeriCorps Graduation



Stories and STEM



Love of Literacy Luncheon



Loop for Literacy



Book Drives



Support From Grants

Who We Are

Since 1989, through extensive outreach and collaboration with a network of community partners, the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County has been dedicated to ensuring that individuals in Palm Beach County receive the help they need to improve their literacy skills.

Who We Serve

The preschool child who lives in a home that doesn't contain a single book.

The child who feels alienated and angry because they struggle to read as well as their friends.

The family who lives in poverty because the parents don't have the literacy skills to qualify for a job with a sustaining wage.



Our Mission

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

22.2% of adults age 16 and older lack basic literacy skills and can't fill out a job application or read a bus schedule.

47% of third grade students read below grade level, begin to fall behind in every subject, not just language arts, and are at greater risk of dropping out of school.

**We served
49,876
adults, children,
youth and families
through our programs**

**Literacy AmeriCorps
members provided
29,616 hours of service
– teaching, tutoring and
mentoring • 200 adults
• 1,030 teens • 240 children**

**We distributed
112,457 books
to children, families
and organizations**



Literacy Coalition Recognized in top 1% of Charities Nationwide

The Literacy Coalition has earned 13 consecutive 4-out-of-4 star ratings from Charity Navigator.



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Literacy Board LEADERS

Thank you to the Literacy Coalition's Board of Directors. Led the past two years by retired human resources executive Len Gray, these talented volunteers help govern, guide and support our organization with their professional expertise and personal passion to help families in our community increase their opportunities in life by developing fundamental literacy and important life skills.

Len's enthusiastic support and dedicated service as Board President during the past two years was instrumental in our ability to successfully continue our efforts during the pandemic. Len previously served as board

secretary, and on the Coalition's development committee, the Love of Literacy Luncheon committee and as a co-chair of LOOP for Literacy. Len has earned the title of Top Individual LOOP fundraiser for many years.

Len's successor is Matt Criscuolo, an attorney with the law firm of Cozen O'Connor. A native Floridian, Matt earned his J.D. from Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad Law Center and his undergraduate degree from the University of Florida. Matt previously served as Literacy Coalition board Treasurer and Finance Chair and has been an active participant in our strategic planning and fundraising efforts.



Len and Matt at the Coalition's annual meeting.



Len addressing the participants at the LOOP for Literacy event.

Thank you again to board leaders like Len and Matt who continue to make a difference in our organization and in the community.

Chief Executive Officer's Message



KRISTIN CALDER

Thank you to the Literacy Coalition board of directors, staff, Literacy AmeriCorps members, 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, the best practices we implement and impact we are making having served 49,876 adults, children, youth and families this past year.

Our exceptional staff continued to deliver innovative programming featuring high-quality literature to help students learn skills and comprehend timely topics.

Our programs continued to include the gift of books featuring a wide variety of topics, voices and representations. We know that

reading diverse and inclusive books is a wonderful way to allow children to see themselves reflected, learn about other people and their experiences, recognize our similarities and celebrate differences.

Our volunteers continued to shine as they provided in-person and online tutoring, planned fundraising events to help our programs and found new ways to help share a love of literacy with those in need.

Our Endowment, The Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition Foundation, Inc., continued to grow as we work to help sustain our impact in our community for future generations. We thank donors like Margaret Blume for support to help create the Foundation.

We are proud of our accomplishments in the past year. Our success would not have been as significant without the members of our community who support our programs, initiatives and events to support our mission and vision. We recognize our many



Kristin presenting at the Love of Literacy Luncheon.



Kristin with Brenda Medore at the Literacy Links Golf Tournament.

generous funders and partners in this report. Our impact and reach are increased with your help and we thank you for being a part of the Literacy family.

Staying Current in Education TRENDS

Through extensive outreach and collaboration with a network of community partners, the Literacy Coalition strives to ensure that individuals who need to improve their literacy skills receive the help they need. Literacy Coalition program leaders stay current on research and trends in the field of literacy education and are connected in the local community, keeping a pulse on existing needs.

"The Science of Reading"

In recent years, the "science of reading" has been showing up in mainstream news with pushes across the country for schools to implement more phonics-based literacy teaching. Designed in collaboration with the School District of Palm Beach County, Building Better Readers changes and adapts based on classroom-level and individual student needs. As our trained volunteer tutors work to build better readers, we strive to supplement and reinforce learning that is already taking place in the classroom. Our program focuses on relationship building, phonics, comprehension, and vocabulary building is a powerful tool, which contributes to the success of our children.

Building Relationships Through Mentoring

Young people are more likely to succeed when they experience developmental relationships with important people in their lives. Many of our Literacy Coalition programs are designed with this concept in mind, recognizing that a secure bond with a positive adult role model who gets to know them, cares about them and gives them an opportunity to succeed is a powerful catalyst for student motivation and school achievement. Mentoring is the basis of the graduation coaching efforts of our Literacy AmeriCorps program.

Family Engagement

Parent and family engagement in a child's education are a greater predictor of academic success than whether or not that family is affluent or poor. Two-generation approaches build family well-being by providing instruction for children and the adults in their lives together, focusing on breaking the intergenerational cycle of low-level literacy and poverty while recognizing parents as a child's first and most important teachers. Megan Bob, Literacy Coalition Director of Education & Family Literacy, said, "Our family literacy programs strive to empower families by providing high quality instruction for children while helping their parents improve their own language and literacy skills, and by promoting meaningful parent engagement opportunities."



Education and Family Literacy Director Megan Bob teaching during a tutor training session.



An AmeriCorps member tutors a student after school.



An AmeriCorps member mentors students.



A parent and her son playing a literacy game to understand reading at Glades Family Education.

BY THE NUMBERS

A total of **432** volunteers supported the Literacy Coalition's efforts during the past year donating **33,182** volunteer hours.

To see a complete list of volunteer opportunities, visit LiteracyPBC.org or scan the QR code, below.



Thank You To Our VOLUNTEERS

"Volunteerism is the voice of the people put into action. These actions shape and mold the present into a future of which we can all be proud." – **Helen Dyer**

The Literacy Coalition provides more than a dozen programs and initiatives to the community through the efforts of our dedicated team of staff, partners, funders and volunteers.

Our volunteers give their time and talents to allow the Coalition to expand its reach to help more adults, children and families be successful in school and in life. In the past year, our volunteers provided 33,182 hours of service to help us accomplish our mission through our literacy programs, initiatives, events and efforts.

Our Literacy Coalition staff trained and placed volunteers in schools and at our Blume Literacy Center to allow them to tutor children in our Building Better Readers program and to help adults attending educational programs.

We coordinated the opportunity for adults to read to kindergarten children

through Read with Me on select Fridays at schools throughout the county. Volunteers read to one student or to a small group, and helped the students complete a book-related activity, showing the students that reading is fun.

Volunteers lent their expertise as members of our Coalition board to help guide and support our organization. They labeled and sorted books, assembled reading activity kits and even organized book drives. They also supported our fundraising campaigns and helped plan special events and initiatives including the Love of Literacy Luncheon, LOOP for Literacy, Literacy Links, Read Together PBC and Read for the Record.

"Our community is stronger and enriched by the hundreds of Literacy Coalition volunteers who served in this past year," said Literacy Coalition CEO Kristin Calder. "On behalf our organization and the entire community, thank you to each and every volunteer who helped us make an impact."



Books, Books and More BOOKS!

The Literacy Coalition received 12,047 books this year through book drives and donations from our generous community partners and individuals.

Through the Literacy Coalition's book donation program, thousands of books were distributed to organizations throughout the county to support our children's literacy programs.



Lorain Morris-Vachon and Alexis Evans-Morris with Jeanne Siccone, top, and Jasmine Johnson from Gamma Gamma Sigma Sorority Philo Affiliated members donated 350 books.



Children's Literacy Director Jeanne Siccone coordinates our book donations and is seen here with the Wellington Barnes and Noble book drive donation.



Kate DeFrancisco, Deborah Haddock-Doischen and Rachel Costigan from O'Shea's Irish Pub with the books that were collected during their annual holiday book drive to support the Coalition.



Development Director John Landry with Jeanne Siccone displaying the generous book donation from the Kellogg's Foundation Book Program / Penguin Random House.



Literacy Coalition CEO, Kristin Calder with WPTV 5 news anchor Janny Rodriguez.



The Coalition's Building Better Readers students celebrate National Reading Day with news anchor Janny Rodriguez, reading a book selected from the WPTV 5 / Scripps Howard Foundation book donation on display.



HOLA (Hispanic Organization of Leadership & Achievement) / DePuy Synthes / Johnson & Johnson employees held a book drive and collected over 700 books.



William T. Dwyer High School Future Educators of America students collected almost 200 books in their book drive.

MAYORS' *Literacy Initiative*

The Literacy Coalition hosted the 14th annual Mayors' Literacy Initiative Luncheon at the Flagler Steakhouse at The Breakers, Palm Beach, in September 2021 in partnership with The Palm Beach County League of Cities and Comcast, our sponsor. The Literacy Coalition encouraged the mayors, city officials 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 2021-2022 Literacy AmeriCorps members interacted with the mayors and took their oath of service administered by PBC Mayor Dave Kerner and Volunteer Florida Commissioner Autumn Karlinsky.



COMCAST
NBCUNIVERSAL



Read for the **RECORD**



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 112 municipal leaders and staff that read in person or virtually to 26,388 children at 124 sites throughout the county. Thank you to our celebrity readers Tania Rogers of WPTV 5, Bill Adams of Sunny 107.9 and additional campaign supporters, The Palm Beach County League of Cities and Comcast.

The selected book was *Amy Wu and the Patchwork Dragon*, by Kat Zhang and illustrated by Charlene Chua.

The Village of Wellington was the winner of the large municipality, The Village of Palm Springs was the winner of the mid-size municipality and the Town of Lake Park was the winner of the small municipality. Thank you to everyone who participated!



LOOP for Literacy



More than 400 cyclists, runners and walkers and 200+ donors and sponsors supported the 12th annual LOOP for Literacy. The fundraiser offered an in-person event on February 12 at Bryant Park in Lake Worth and a virtual component from February 1–12. The LOOP Your Way virtual option allowed participants to bike, walk or run at the time and place of their choice and \$75,000 was raised. Thank you to LOOP Chairs Joe Grant and Andy Loewenstein.

The top 3 finishers in the men's 5K run were:

- 1st – Max Arthay of Palm Beach Gardens, with a time of 19:03
- 2nd – Spencer Williams of Lake Worth, with a time of 23:54
- 3rd – Andrew Kwan of Lake Worth, with a time of 24:05

The top 3 finishers in the women's 5K run were:

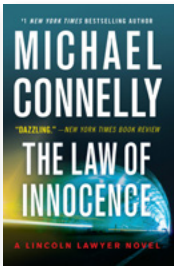
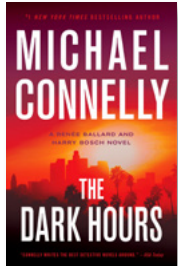
- 1st – Emily Abbott of Lake Worth, with a time of 23:17
- 2nd – Ulrike Vernachio of Lake Worth, with a time of 23:47
- 3rd – Melody Raynaud of West Palm Beach, with a time of 24:24

Thank you to our presenting sponsor Florida Crystals, as well as Domino Sugar, Levenger Foundation, Bill Bone Bike Law, Sugar Growers Cooperative of Florida, LC Tri Shop, Park Avenue BBQ Grille, the Loewenstein Family, Orange Theory Fitness, *The Palm Beach Post* and Fit-2-Run.



Love of **LITERACY** Luncheon

November 16, 2021



Thanks to generous supporters and the draw of bestselling author Michael Connelly, the 30th annual Love of Literacy Luncheon brought in more than \$150,000 to fund literacy programs throughout Palm Beach County. Nearly 450 guests attended the Kravis Center event in person

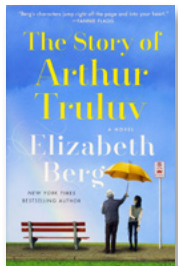
while dozens tuned in virtually. Connelly, a former South Florida crime reporter, shared with the audience his life's journey to becoming one of the most well-known authors in the world through a conversation on stage with Scott Eyman, also a former South Florida reporter and a *New York Times* bestselling author. Connelly has published 36 novels including his latest, *The Dark Hours*. He is also the executive producer of "Bosch", Amazon's longest-running original series. We thank Bank of America for its 20th 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.



Thank you to our presenting sponsor

BANK OF AMERICA

April 1, 2022



The 31st annual Love of Literacy Luncheon and Read Together finale was held at the Kravis Center on April 1, which is the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County's biggest annual fundraiser, which raised more than \$175,000 for our literacy programs. Bestselling author Elizabeth Berg entertained and captivated the audience. She is the author of the 2021-2022 Read Together Palm Beach County book, *The Story of Arthur Truluv*. The reading campaign kicked off in November 2021 and culminated with the Luncheon. Berg is the author of many bestselling novels, including three that became television movies. We thank Bank of America for its 21st year of support of the event as the presenting sponsor and Paul & Nancy Zarcadoolas for serving as the platinum sponsor. Debra Ghostine and Bernadette O'Grady graciously served again as co-chairmen.



THANK YOU TO OUR READ TOGETHER PARTNERS



Literacy LINKS Golf Tournament

Thanks to the support of golfers and sponsors, the 6th annual Literacy Links Golf Tournament on April 29 raised \$33,000 to help fund literacy programs. The tournament took place at the beautiful Palm Beach Par 3 and included lunch, awards and a silent auction at *al Fresco* Restaurant. Thank you to our presenting sponsor Brenda Medore and supporters including Publix Super Markets Charities, Cozen O'Connor, Palm Beach State College, PGA of America, Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart & Shipley and an anonymous donor. Special thanks goes to Literacy Coalition Board Member Nancy Vera, who served as Event Chair.



The 2022 winning foursome with CEO Kristin Calder, L to R: Peter Gary, Victor Creighton, Anthony Greco and Glen Calder.



The 2022 runner-up foursome, L to R: Mike Bessette, Mike Schmidt, Mike Muelenfeld and Bill Coffman.



BY THE NUMBERS

The Glades Family Education program serves adults and children from the Belle Glade, Pahokee, and South Bay areas. The four main components of the program include adult literacy, children's literacy, weekly Parent and Child Together (PACT) activities and monthly parenting skills workshops. 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. Parents and their preschool children attend PACT time once a week. PACT is a component that allows parents and children to interact and learn together as a family. Staff members help parents learn how to support their child's learning by interacting together through meaningful activities. 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 **83** adults and **13** 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.

457 books were distributed.



PACT time allows Claudia and her son Alexander to grow and learn together.



GLADES Family Education

Claudia moved with her husband in 2017 to the U.S. She spoke very little English and relied heavily on others as translators. She wanted to study to be a beautician and open her own salon, but due to the language barrier, she was unable to pursue that dream. When her son, Alexander, turned three, a family member recommended Glades Family Education as a program in which Claudia could improve her English language skills at the same time that Alexander could attend preschool and prepare for kindergarten. Claudia and Alexander started attending the Glades Family Education program in March 2021.

As Claudia attended classes, her English started to improve and her confidence soared, enabling her to begin studying for her beautician license. Her improved language skills also gave her an opportunity to work at a beauty parlor to gain experience. Claudia expresses feeling happy and fulfilled with her own accomplishments, and

with Alexander's, too. Alexander started the program not knowing any English, and he has learned so much. He is now talkative with his friends and neighbors, he can identify the letters of the alphabet, colors, shapes and numbers, and he is starting to read and spell simple words. Claudia has noticed a marked improvement in his ability to focus and stay on task, and she is thrilled with his newfound love of reading. Weekly PACT activities have shown both of them how much fun it can be to read and learn together, and Claudia plans to continue the tradition with her new baby, Keily. Just a month after giving birth, Claudia is back at school with Alexander, feeling confident that Alexander will start kindergarten well-prepared, that Keily will grow up fully bilingual, and that she, herself, will be able to fulfill her dream of opening her own beauty salon.

BY THE NUMBERS

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. Once a month, parents and their children come together for Parent and Child Together (PACT) time, reinforcing the idea that learning involves the whole family. The program also offers monthly parenting skills workshops for our adult students to learn how they can best support their children.

116 adults and **36** children participated in the evening program.

25 children received **12** hours or more of afternoon tutoring in reading and comprehension.

96% of the children tutored made significant improvements in reading.

78% of adults tested demonstrated significant learning gains in their English language skills.

701 books were distributed.



Luder is proud of both his Flight of Freedom award and his daughters Shmederlie, Ruth and Myderline.



VILLAGE Readers Family Education

When Luder moved to the United States in 2019 with his three daughters, he recalls having to make a doctor's appointment for one of them. "I couldn't understand anything. I panicked and had to hand the phone to my cousin. I felt disappointment in myself. I wanted to communicate, but I couldn't." That experience brought Luder to the Village Readers Family Education program. He knew he wanted to improve his English skills, and as a family literacy program, Village Readers would also provide tutoring and literacy enrichment for his daughters. With their mom still in Haiti, Luder has taken a much more active role in the girls' lives, and he describes being able to learn together as a gift.

The family's hard work and dedication to their education is paying off. This year, Luder's teacher nominated him for the Flight for Freedom Award, honoring an adult student in the state of Florida who has demonstrated exceptional accomplishment in improvement

of literacy or leadership skills within literacy. Selected as the winner, Luder traveled to Orlando and gave a speech at a state-wide conference. In describing how Village Readers has impacted his life, he said, "There are so many ways my life is better. I have a better, more stable job, my kids are doing well in school, I understand when people talk to me, and I could make a million doctors' appointments, no problem!"

Looking ahead, Luder is considering continuing his education and learning a professional trade, but ultimately, his goal is to send his daughters to a university. They are certainly on the right track. All three girls are reading on grade level and excelling in school – Myderline, a sophomore in high school, Shmaderlie in fourth grade, and Ruth in kindergarten. Luder is a proud father, thrilled with their progress and grateful to play an active role in their learning.

BY THE NUMBERS

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.

47 adults students participated in classes at five sites throughout the county:

- Frenchman's Creek Country Club (Workplace-specific English)
- City of West Palm Beach (GED and Workplace-specific needs)
- Faith Farm Ministries (GED)
- Royal Palm Place Apartments – Pine Ridge Holistic Living Center (ESOL)
- SBA Communications (Workplace-specific needs)

100% of students demonstrated skill development in their primary area of study.

100% of students passed their workplace licensure exams.



Astrid, Elvia and Lisbeth at Frenchman's Creek Country Club.

WORKPLACE and Community Education

When Lisbeth, who works in housekeeping at Frenchman's Creek Beach and Country Club, found out that they offered on-site English classes to employees at no charge through the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County, she was thrilled and signed up right away. Originally from Venezuela, she had been so busy doing her job at the club and establishing a life in the U.S. for herself and her son, that she did not have time to find English classes outside of work. She encouraged her co-worker Elvia, originally from Guatemala, to join the beginning level class too. They shared the same goal: to be able to speak to club members in English.

Lisbeth and Elvia made noteworthy progress. In only a few months, their managers in the fitness center began noticing how each had been using English more often when speaking with members. Lisbeth and Elvia explained that practicing in class had given them more confidence to talk with members ("Good Morning," "Have a nice evening/weekend"), as well as use workplace vocabulary ("Here are your towels").

Advanced level student, Astrid, a hospitality college graduate from Peru who is in the United States on a two-year specialty work Visa, returned for a second season of English classes at Frenchman's Creek in order to expand her professional vocabulary. With goals in international hotel management in mind, she learned key career words she could use to clearly communicate her skill set on her resume and in job interviews.

When advanced and basic level students came together, Astrid became a role model for Lisbeth and Elvia as she demonstrated the possibilities of learning English. Occasional translating on-the-spot reinforced Astrid's English skills and resulted in an unexpected boost in confidence.

The Literacy Coalition has provided seasonal English classes at Frenchman's Creek Country Club since November of 2008. Students regularly express their appreciation for the workplace-specific, customized classes.

BY THE NUMBERS



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.

200 adult learners were assisted with reading, English and employability skills.

1,030 at-risk youth were coached, tutored and mentored for academic success.

84 children received tutoring and literacy enrichment to improve reading skills.

156 children and youth were provided with homework help.



AmeriCorps member Ben Carroll with some of his graduating students in the Take Stock in Children program.



AmeriCorps members were recognized upon completing their service year, L to R: Matthew Parker, Magda Martial, Adam Harris, Alana Horwitz and Elise Moralez.



Member Layney Giles tutoring a student.

Literacy AMERICORPS

As a graduation coach at a Title-1 high school in Palm Beach County, I served a cohort of more than 100 students who are at risk of not graduating. I worked individually with each student providing mentoring and tutoring with an ultimate goal of getting the student on track to graduate. More often than not, I found that a student is struggling in school because of what is going on in their lives, not because their classes are too difficult. Therefore, to me, the most important aspect of my position was to serve as a support system for my students.

On Thanksgiving Day in 2021, an 11th grade student of mine tragically lost her father. Given that she was one of my students, she was already not on track to graduate. The loss of her father put her at an even greater risk. When she returned to school, I immediately met with her. Naturally, she was not doing well. She had no motivation to do her school work and she was losing interest in finishing the school year. I realized that in order to get my point across to her, I would have to become vulnerable. I decided to tell her about my personal experiences with losing my father during my final semester of college. More specifically, I told her what my father said to me the day he was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer: “stay on track.” I have lived by these words ever since that day. Living by

this saying led me to graduate at the top of my class in college and to get accepted into many of the highest-ranked law schools in the country. These words changed my life, and I had the honor to use them to change my student’s life as well. My student was simultaneously heart-broken and captivated as she listened to my story and to the advice I gave her. I gave her time to process the conversation, and we sat in silence while she cried. After a few minutes, she got up from her chair and gave me a hug, telling me through her tears that this conversation changed her life and she will never forget what I said.

I keep a file on each of my students. During my first meeting with this student at the beginning of the school year, I wrote, verbatim, that she was “very bubbly and positive!!” She lost this spirit after the passing of her father, but over the time I have worked with her, I saw this “bubbly and positive” energy beginning to redevelop. Although she still has challenging milestones to reach in her senior year, I believe that I have planted the seed that she needs to support her academic success. It takes time to grieve, but I am confident that this student will graduate from high school. I genuinely believe that the support I provided is one of the main contributors to her future graduation.

– Alana Horwitz, Graduation Coach

BY THE NUMBERS

In Palm Beach County, **46%** of third grade students are reading below grade level. Children learn to read in grades K-3 and read to learn beginning in grade 4. To address this, the Literacy Coalition, in partnership with the School District of Palm Beach County, has completed its eighth year of Building Better Readers. We recruit, train and support community volunteers to tutor children who struggle with reading.

155 first and second grade students in **18** elementary schools were tutored in classrooms by **62** volunteer tutors. Almost all of the tutoring was conducted in person in classrooms during the 2021-2022 school year.

51 volunteers tutored **98** first through fourth grade students after school, both virtually and in person at the Literacy Coalition.

Of the **253** students tutored in 2021-2022, **73%** of them ended the year at least **50%** closer to grade level than when they began the year and **20%** actually ended the year on grade level reading.



BUILDING *Better Readers*

At the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, 56.79% of the second grade students that we tutored were at kindergarten reading levels! This was the first full year that these students had been in a classroom since the COVID pandemic began. The Literacy Coalition continues to offer Building Better Readers for first, second and third grade students in the classroom and after school to help them “catch up”.

Kelly Gilbert, literacy specialist with the School District said, “Students who participate in this program are provided with the opportunity to get one-on-one time with adults and individualized instruction in the area where they are most vulnerable. Many students have shown significant growth in their reading abilities and in their own self-confidence.”

Our tutors and parents also recognize the improvements:

“My first grader didn’t even know all her letters when we started at the beginning of the school year... She is starting to make her own corrections; when I commented on

this, she told me she might like to be a teacher; the increase in confidence is incredible and wonderful to witness.”

– **Kara, virtual after school tutor**

“My first grader did the after school reading tutoring program this year. He went from barely being able to read, to reading above grade level. Thank you so much for such a wonderful gift! The Coalition has done an amazing job!”

– **Amanda, J’s mom**

“It was difficult to keep one of my (first grade) students focused on reading at the beginning of the year. She was reading at about level C (mid-kindergarten). I think because we built a relationship, by the end of the year, she was concentrating much better and reading at level H (late first grade)! I feel like I definitely had a positive impact for the future.”

– **Laura, Tutor, Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary**

BY THE NUMBERS



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

48,826 books were distributed at well child checkups by **85** practitioners at **38** clinics.

Reach Out and READ

Reach Out and Read partners with pediatric primary care providers to promote shared reading during well visits: at each well-child visit through age five, a Reach Out and Read-trained clinician discusses the importance of reading aloud together, shares practical tips to promote early literacy and healthy relationships, and offers the child a new book for their home library.

"I incorporate Reach out and Read when I talk about language development, school readiness and limiting screen time. Most of the families I encounter are surprised to hear that reading a book together is better for language development than an educational television program or video on the phone. It is great to have a book to give to families while I discuss these important topics because it gives the parents immediate access to an



Dr. Joane Cadet giving a patient a book he can take with him to enjoy and read at home.

example of something they can do with their children. The kids always get so excited when I hand them a book and the parents get to see their child's reaction right away. Almost every child exchanges the tablet they're holding for the book! The other wonderful thing about Reach out and Read is the diversity and inclusion displayed in the books. Our patients get to see themselves in the characters in the book and parents can read to their children in their native languages. This definitely helps build their self-esteem!"

– **Dr. Joane Cadet, FoundCare**

BY THE NUMBERS

The Early Literacy Book Distribution program provides children's books for families receiving services in the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County's Healthy Beginnings system of early childhood care.

We distributed **46,354** books to **16** different Healthy Beginnings programs through **11** providers.

EARLY Literacy Book Distribution

The Literacy Coalition provided books to the Center for Child Counseling (CFCC) for their Child First program, in which therapists provide intensive mental-health services to young children and families.

"Clinicians used the stories as 'points of entry' to address the therapeutic issues which brought the children and their families into services," says Clarissa DeWitt, Clinical Director of Child First Program at CFCC. "Reading books with our families also modeled positive parenting and improved the bond between parents and

their children, which is at the core of secure attachment."

The provided books included topics of death /dying, separation/divorce, illness, abuse, trauma, domestic violence and self-esteem, as well as storybooks. Renee Layman, Executive Director of CFCC shared, "Books are such an incredibly wonderful and powerful therapeutic tool, and we are so grateful to the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County for recognizing how helpful, even essential, they are in helping improve the functioning and healing of the parent-child dyads in our program."

BY THE NUMBERS

Read! Lead! Succeed! offers a social emotional learning curriculum, using high-quality children's literature and literature-based activities to children in afterschool and summer camp programs.

31 sites participated in the program.

306 sessions were provided.

1,194 children received direct instruction.



Youth practice ways to process and handle their emotions.

Read! Lead! **SUCCEED!**

The Read! Lead! Succeed! program helped children navigate through the changes of the pandemic by providing literacy-based experiences, discussions, and activities designed to foster social emotional learning. We helped students build resiliency with our "Bounce Back" series. Children discussed forgiveness in our "Pardon Me, Please" lesson series and decided to choose hope, peace and joy during the sessions on *Emotional Choices*.

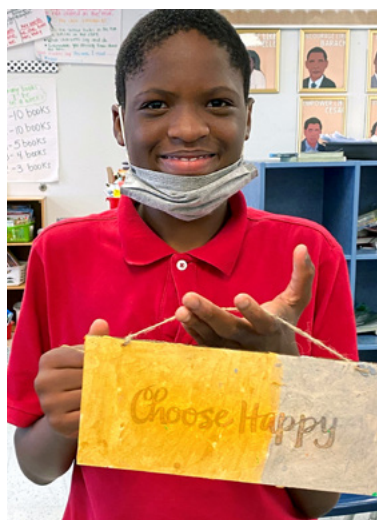
Most recently, students participating in the Read! Lead! Succeed! program have been active with Bullying Prevention, exploring topics such as standing up to bullying, learning empathy, and practicing positive affirmations.

Briana, a third-grade student at High Point Academy shared an example of what she learned reading and talking about the text, *Bully Beans*. "I always knew how important it is to help others, but sometimes I felt I couldn't

do anything. As we read different books, reading *Bully Beans* showed me I could make a difference just by standing up and using my voice to say 'No' to help my friends."

The staff at New Hope Charities in Pahokee has also seen a shift in the attitudes of some of their students. Lorena Diaz, Program Coordinator, commented on the lesson in which all students had a chance to turn negative thoughts into positive affirmations. She pointed out how turning negative comments about themselves into positive affirmations has brought "a positive vibe" to the classrooms.

Read! Lead! Succeed! recognizes the importance of giving youth the necessary tools to see themselves in a positive light, which in turn, brings positive habits into the classroom and into their communities.



For International Social Emotional Learning Day, students were reminded that every day is an opportunity for learning about emotional choices and how to choose peace, happiness, hope and joy.

BY THE NUMBERS

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

More than **4,300** books were distributed to children and afterschool sites.

1,156 K-5 children were enriched by the program throughout Palm Beach County.

273 interactive sessions were held at **22** sites.



Students at Faith Lutheran explored the world of colors and chromatography while reading about the adventures of a box of crayons in Drew Dewalt's book "The Day the Crayons Came Home."



Getting hands-on is fun for everyone!



Stories and STEM

Whether lessons were held virtually or in-person, Stories and STEM never stopped bringing literacy and fun through STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) to youth in afterschool programs and summer camps throughout Palm Beach County. Lessons, ranging from experiments with sound to exploring with microscopes, gave children the opportunity to expand their view on the world.

"I think it's very important to have these types of Expanded Learning Opportunities in afterschool because we want our students to have fun, but we want them to keep learning even when they are out of school," shared Olivia Chavez, Benoist Farms Elementary Afterschool Director. "Teaching students that they can still have fun and learn at the same time is a wonderful thing."

In addition to the book that each participant took home after every session, the afterschool and summer camp sites also received lesson plans and extra supplies

for staff to expand on the activity later. "The extra supplies were very helpful! On rainy days when we had to switch our schedule around, these resources were very helpful," said Chavez. "My favorite activity was the bee buzzers, it sounded like an actual bee flying around!" At Benoist Farms Elementary Afterschool program, the Literacy Coalition also provided a variety of book titles in addition to the program-related texts. Parents took note and expressed their appreciation for diverse literature their kids could relate to.

"Thank you for working with us and bringing this new experience to the kids. I've never seen them get this excited about reading. Thank you for everything you do! I hope to see you again next school year, the Literacy Coalition is awesome!"

– **Olivia Chavez,**
Benoist Farms Elementary

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FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Financial Position

As of June 30, 2021

ASSETS

Cash and Investments	\$3,899,373
Grants and Allocations Receivable	490,380
Pledges Receivable	119,473
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets	32,671
Property and Equipment, Net	2,829,638

TOTAL ASSETS

\$7,371,535

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$243,613
Accrued Compensation	63,823
Deferred Revenue	86,566
Refundable Advance	240,000

TOTAL LIABILITIES

\$634,002

Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$5,729,061
Temporarily Restricted	1,008,472

Total Net Assets

\$6,737,533

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

\$7,371,535

Statement of Financial Activities

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

REVENUES AND PUBLIC SUPPORT

Gifts and Grants	\$6,003,944
Special Events	157,195
Investment Income	19,275
Unrealized Gain/(Loss)	139,207
Contributions In-Kind	206,758
Program Service Fees	279,250
Loan Forgiveness-	
Payroll Protection Program	365,891

TOTAL REVENUES AND PUBLIC SUPPORT

\$7,171,520

EXPENSES

Programs	\$5,664,276
Management and General	257,009
Fundraising	256,588

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$6,177,963

Change in Net Assets \$993,557

Net Assets at Beginning of Year 5,743,976

NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR

\$6,737,533

PERCENT USED FOR FUNDRAISING

4%

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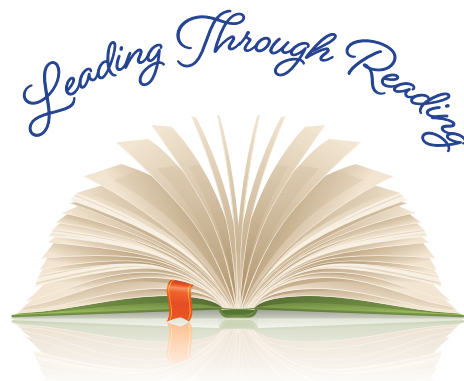
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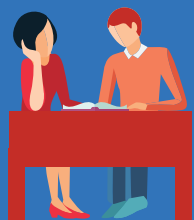
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VOLUNTEER

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 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 or distributed to partner agencies serving economically disadvantaged children. The Literacy Coalition received 12,047 books this year through book drives and donations from our generous community partners and individuals. Books are always needed for programs serving children up through the fifth grade.



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 stocks, 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 the 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. Planned gifts – large and small – are a lasting way to help us continue the success we know today in helping families be successful in school and in life.

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 them. 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, and the 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!





Read! Lead! Succeed!



Love of Literacy Luncheon



Coalition's Free Little Library



Building Better Readers

2021-2022 HIGHLIGHTS



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