



ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020

Leading Through Reading



AmeriCorps



Read Together



Loop for Literacy



Mayor's Literacy Initiative

2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS



Read for the Record



National Reading Day



Love of Literacy Luncheon



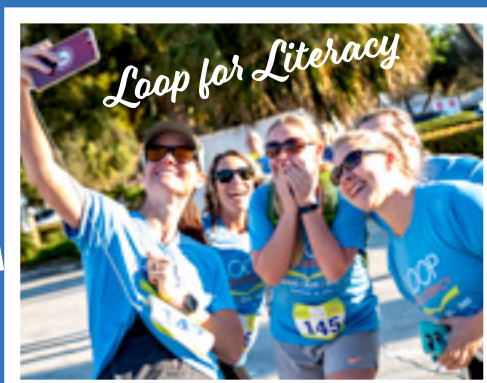
AmeriCorps Swearing In



Leadership Glades



Book Drives



Loop for Literacy



Read Together

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, 22.2% of adults age 16 and older lack 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% 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



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

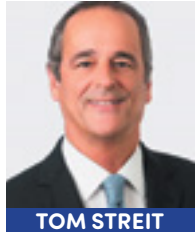
Through extensive outreach and collaboration with a network of community partners, the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County is dedicated to ensuring that individuals receive the help they need to improve their literacy skills. The Literacy Coalition provides services to 29,000 adults, children and families through 11 programs in 169 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.



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The Board President



TOM STREIT

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 inspiring.

NEED LETTER FROM TOM

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.

Chief Executive Officer



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 and the many ways we've celebrated literacy in our 30th year.

I am also proud to share that the Literacy Coalition adapted our programs this year during the challenging times of a pandemic to continue providing educational instruction and learning support for the students and families we serve. Our efforts helped them when they need us most.

We promoted reading and shared a love of literacy this year through initiatives and events featuring authors Jean Kwok, Oge Mora and Monica Wood. We collected and gave away thousands of books to community partners, schools and organizations from donated books from individuals and book drives. Our extensive outreach and collaboration with our community partners continued to thrive and connect us.

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



Tom and his team fundraised for the LOOP for Literacy event.



Tom with best selling author Jean Kwok at the Love of Literacy Luncheon.



Kristin reads "Thank You, Omu!" to Building Better Readers students during the Read For The Record day.



Robert and Margaret Blume, Kristin, Tom and Jeanne Siccone at our 30th Anniversary Celebration.

Cheers to 30 Years!



A celebration was held last fall to honor the 30 years that the Literacy Coalition has been helping residents of Palm Beach County. In addition to celebrating our past, present and future at the event, James O. Born shared his insights as an award winning novelist and bestselling co-author of five novels with James Patterson. As a former U.S. Drug Enforcement agent and Florida Law Enforcement agent, Born incorporates some aspects of his career into his work. Mr. Born's third novel, *Escape Clause*, won the inaugural "Florida Book Award" for Best Novel. His next book, co-authored with James Patterson, will be published in 2020.



Literacy Coalition past presidents: Tom Streit, Susan Rabinowitz, Bernadette O'Grady, Laurie Gildan and Gale Howden



CEO Kristin Calder kicks off the celebration of 30 Years of the Literacy Coalition



Author James O. Born and his wife Donna, Lynn Kalber and Scott Eyman

Read For The Record



The Literacy Coalition celebrated Jumpstart's Read for the Record on November 7 by coordinating 580 local volunteers to read *Thank You, Omu!* by Oge Mora to 18,851 children at 220 sites 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 to PNC Bank for supporting the local campaign.

The featured event was held at the Blume Literacy Center with children from the Literacy Coalition's Budding Readers program and local child care centers.

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 169 municipal officials and staff who read at 102 sites to nearly 10,000 children and to the Palm Beach County Fire Rescue who read to 1,977 children at 30 sites. The City of Boynton Beach was the winner for larger municipalities and the Town of Lantana was the winner for smaller municipalities. Honorable mentions went to the City of Delray Beach, Village of Wellington, Village of Royal Palm Beach and the Town of Lake Park. Thank you to everyone who participated!



Town of Lantana Mayor David Stewart and City of Boynton Beach Mayor Steven B. Grant received awards from Kristin Calder.



PNC executives Cressman D. Bronson and Kim Reckley with children from Tiny Tikes Academy and their teachers, Literacy Coalition CEO Kristin Calder and WPTV 5 anchor Tania Rogers.



"Thank You, Omu!" author Oge Mora met with Kristin Calder.

The Grand Bee LITERACY FUN & GAMES

The Literacy Coalition's Grand Bee created a buzz last October during the 28th annual event at the Harriet Himmel Theater at Rosemary Square. This year's literary-themed trivia was **Who Dunnit? – an evening of mysteries and extraordinary accomplishments**. Teams came dressed as their favorite detective or in their best disguise. Points and prizes were awarded for each round with the grand prize trophy presented to The Palm Beach Post. Akerman LLP was the runner-up and the NCCI team won third place.

Thank you to Literacy Coalition Board members Kimberly Lea and Chris Duke, who served as Co-Chairs, Telsula Morgan and Nicole Rocco who served on the committee and Bernadette O'Grady, who presided as Bee Keeper Master of Ceremonies. Thanks to our Bee team sponsors: Akerman LLP, Cozen O'Connor, Duffy's Foundation, Florida Crystals Corporation, Florida Power & Light, Keiser University, Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A., NCCI, SV Microwave and The Palm Beach Post.



Congratulations to the 2019 Champions, The Palm Beach Post! L to R: Front row: Nick Manzino, Carol Rose, Adriana Delgado and Howard Goodman, with Debra Ghostine, Scott Miller. Back row: Kimberly Lea, Chris Duke, Kristin Calder and Bernadette O'Grady.



Keiser University came dressed up as characters from "Clue" and won the Spirit Award.



The SV Microwave Team

LOOP for Literacy



Co-Chairs Larry Katz and Joe Grant with CEO Kristin Calder



The 10th annual LOOP for Literacy was held on Leap Day, February 29, at Bryant Park. Nearly 400 cyclists, runners and walkers participated to actively support literacy efforts in Palm Beach County. More than \$70,000 was raised for our cause.

We thank major sponsors: Florida Crystals, the LOOP Presenting Sponsor for all ten years, represented by board member Nicole Rocco, and our Gold Sponsors Domino Sugar and the Levens Foundation. We also thank our event Co-Chairmen Larry Katz and Joe Grant and founding LOOP Chairman Steve Leveen.

Proceeds supported vital literacy programs that assist children, adults and families.



Board member and Florida Crystals representative Nicole Rocco with CEO Kristin Calder



Read Together PALM BEACH COUNTY



Thousands of adults, partners and sponsors joined the Literacy Coalition in the 11th Read Together Palm Beach County Campaign, an initiative in which adults throughout the county read the same book at the same time. Events were hosted throughout the fall at libraries, coffee houses, theaters and offices to bring the community together to discuss key themes in the book.

Our 2019 selected title was *The One-in-a-Million Boy* by novelist, memoirist and playwright Monica Wood. Described as a beguiling, heart-wrenching and funny work of art, the story revolves around a friendship between a 104-year-old Lithuanian immigrant woman and an 11-year-old Boy Scout obsessed with Guinness world records.

The finale event with Monica Wood was held on November 21 at the Harriet Himmel Theater, Rosemary Place.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CAMPAIGN:

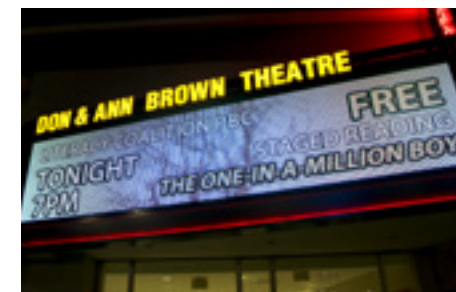
- Book discussions were held throughout the county, including The Book Cellar, Serenity Teahouse & Cafe, Palm Beach County libraries, municipal libraries and Keiser University.
- Palm Beach Dramaworks co-hosted a staged reading with a superb cast of professional actors.



Ann Bocock, host of *Between the Covers* on South Florida PBS, interviewed the author.



The audience enjoyed listening to Ann Bocock interview Monica Wood.



The marquee of the theatre for the Palm Beach Dramaworks staged reading



Campaign Committee: L to R: Kristin Calder, Carol Rose, Lisa Hathaway, Sharon Hill, Lynn Kalber, Aurora Arthay and Craig Clark. (Not pictured: Christina Wood). Thank you to the **Selection Committee:** Laurie Gildan, Stacy Alesi, Sharon Hill, Tina Maura, Deborah Nix, Karen Ronald, Carol Rose, Tom Streit and Christina Wood.

Mayors' Literacy Initiative Luncheon

In order to provide updates for mayors and city officials about literacy and education issues, the Literacy Coalition hosted the 12th annual Mayors' Literacy Initiative Luncheon at the Flagler Steakhouse at The Breakers, Palm Beach, in September in partnership with The Palm Beach County League of Cities 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 2019-2020 Literacy AmeriCorps members interacted with the

mayors, took their oath of service administered by Volunteer Florida Commission Chair Autumn Karlinsky and helped announce *The One-in-a-Million Boy* as this year's book for Read Together Palm Beach County.



Village of Wellington Vice Mayor Michael Napoleone and Town of Lake Clarke Shores Mayor Valentin Rodriguez, Jr. near a display showcasing each municipality's unique qualities.



Richard Radcliffe and Jeff Hmara, Palm Beach County League of Cities, with Kristin Calder, Carla Roderick, Comcast, and Tom Streit



AmeriCorps members helped the Read Together Committee announce the 2019 book.

The Love of Literacy Luncheon



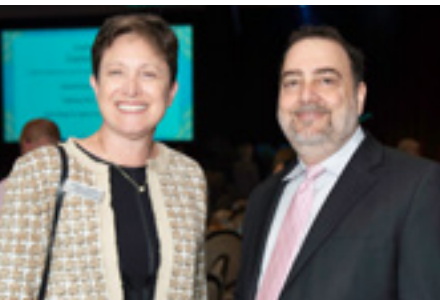
Award-winning *New York Times* and international bestselling author Jean Kwok was the keynote speaker at the 29th annual Love of Literacy Luncheon on March 12.

Searching for Sylvie Lee was the inaugural selection for *The Today Show Book Club* and featured in *The New York Times*, *Time*, *O Magazine* and *People*.

We thank Bank of America for its 19th year of support of the event as the Presenting Sponsor and Kosinski Foundation and Tandy & Joe Robinson for serving as the Diamond Sponsor. Debra Ghostine and Bernadette O'Grady served as Co-Chairmen. The Luncheon, held at the Kravis Center, raised nearly \$200,000 for our literacy programs.

Made possible by

BANK OF AMERICA



Laurie Gildan of Greenberg Traurig, P.A. with Phil DiComo of Haile, Shaw and Pfaffenberger, P.A.



Guests in the Kravis Center, excited for the start of the event.



Board President Tom Streit, CEO Kristin Calder, Co-Chair Bernadette O'Grady, Jean Kwok, Co-Chair Debra Ghostine and Stephanie Glavin from Bank of America in the Founders Room.



Keynote speaker Jean Kwok autographing her books for guests after the luncheon.



Sarah Alsofrom of GL Homes with Dorothy Bradshaw



Tom Lynch and Brendon Lynch of Plastridge Insurance with Jean Kwok



Author Jean Kwok and Tandy Robinson



Lori LaVerriere with Palm Beach Gardens Vice Mayor Maria Marino



Luncheon Committee Members: L to R: Laura Silver, Seran Glanfield, Bettina Young, Co-Chair Debra Ghostine, Kristin Calder, Stephanie Kahlert, Maggie Dickenson, Karen Rogers and Dr. Regine Bataille. **Not Pictured:** Sabine Dantus, Grace Halabi, Mim Harrison, Andrew Loewenstein, Co-Chair Bernadette O'Grady, Carol Rose and Kenneth Spillias.

OUR 2019-2020 IMPACT IN PALM BEACH COUNTY

Who We Are

The Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County is a 31-year-old, 4-out-of-4 star Charity Navigator recognized nonprofit organization committed to ensuring that every resident of our County is able to read.

Whom 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 she struggles to read as well as her friends.

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

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

Literacy AmeriCorps members provided **36,343** hours of service – teaching, tutoring and mentoring • **420** adults • **1,497** teens • **314** children

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



= Literacy program sites



LEAD PROGRAM FUNDERS



Glades Family Education

At 21 years old, Maria moved to the United States shortly after getting married. Having only a middle school education, and with limited English skills, Maria knew she needed to attend classes. She found the Glades Family Education program in 2016 and started to attend, but she didn't have consistent childcare for her 10-month-old son, Javier.



Parent and Child Together time is a highlight for Maria and Javier

Once she found childcare, she needed to work in order to be able to pay for it, so Maria found a job working in a packing house. While she was grateful for the work, she knew that in order to find a job with better working conditions and a higher income, she would need a better command of the English language. Maria worked and waited patiently for two years until Javier turned three years old and then immediately re-enrolled at Glades Family Education with her son. She was so excited to be able to learn together with Javier.

Maria is thrilled with all that they are learning. She loves learning through the games and activities in her own class, as well as Javier's preschool class. She feels so accomplished

with her newfound independence now that her English has improved, and seeing Javier thrive has been a gift. Maria's highlight of the week is Parent and Child Together (PACT) time when she gets to learn together with her son. Through the program, she has learned the importance of interacting and reading with Javier at home, and thanks to PACT time and parenting skills workshops, she now has the skills she needs to feel confident in supporting Javier's learning.

Now that the program has temporarily shifted to virtual learning, Maria is making the best of it. She loves the opportunity to work together everyday with Javier, and his dad has even joined some of the sessions. As an added bonus, while she's at home with Javier, Maria feels like she is practicing being a teacher, her long-term career goal. After seeing and experiencing the interaction between the students and teachers at Glades Family Education, Maria realized that she would love to have that same kind of impact.



Maria is practicing skills to help her achieve the dream of being a teacher.

BY THE NUMBERS

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. Parents and their preschool children attend Parent and Child Together (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 **89 adults and 22 children.**

87% 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.

Village Readers Family Education

When Miglene moved to the United States in April 2015, she had studied English in high school and had a diploma from a professional college. However, upon arriving in the United States, she felt completely overwhelmed. "I couldn't speak English; I couldn't understand when someone was talking." Her daughter, Migoldie, was also struggling with her early English literacy skills. In August of 2016, Miglene was excited to find and enroll in the Village Readers Family Education program where she could improve her language and literacy skills with her daughter.

Miglene entered the program in our level 2 class and has now progressed up to level 5. She was unemployed when she started in the program and knew that improving her English skills would help her to find a job so she could support her family. After a year and a half in the program, she was excited to find a part-time job, but it still didn't provide benefits. However, as her English continued to improve, she was able to apply to, interview for, and earn a full-time job with benefits. She felt so proud when her co-workers told her that she speaks English very well.

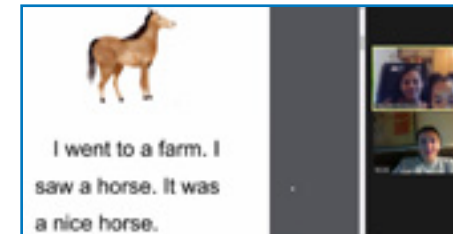
She is even more proud to watch Migoldie thrive in school. Thanks to parenting workshops through Village Readers, Miglene knows the importance of reading with her daughter and has the confidence in her English skills to do so. Migoldie, who just completed first grade, also receives afterschool literacy tutoring through the program. This year, she moved up four reading levels, and even better, now enjoys reading! Seeing how Migoldie has benefited from the tutoring, Miglene is excited that her younger daughter, Claudia,



Village Readers serves the whole family.

will be in school and can participate in tutoring in the fall.

Miglene shared the importance of Village Readers, "I want to learn more. In the USA, if you want to have a better life, you need to speak English. If you want to help your daughters and family, you need to speak English."



Virtual programming brings new opportunities for Miglene and her daughters.

Since the program moved to virtual classes and tutoring through Zoom (pictured above), Miglene and Migoldie are still attending daily. Miglene is excited to have learned new technology skills, and it's great for her to participate in Migoldie's reading sessions. She couldn't help but smile when Migoldie finished a book with her tutor and said, "Can we read another book? That was easy!"

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.

109 adults and 32 children participated in the evening program.

24 children received afternoon tutoring in reading and comprehension (12 hours or more).

79% of the children tutored made **significant improvement** in reading.

74% of adults tested demonstrated **significant learning gains** in their English language skills.

Workplace & Community Education

The Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County has partnered with the City of West Palm Beach Public Utilities Department to provide onsite workplace instruction since 2008. Our instructors provide weekly GED classes, as well as classes to help employees pass certification exams related to their work in the City's Water Department.

The certification exams require knowledge in many topics including water law codes, public safety, water storage and distribution, as well as advanced mathematical calculations. Students are grateful for dedicated time and instruction to help them achieve their work-related goals.

Three students were especially proud to share the progress they've made this year by attending classes. In March, Ferdinand Clarke, Jr., Shawn Stanley and Matthew Street successfully completed their Florida Rural Water Association Water Distribution Operator residential exam and are now eligible to move forward to take the State's commercial certification exam

– a requirement for all utilities employees.

All three students expressed how the classes offered by the Literacy Coalition have helped them.

Ferdinand shared, "Before attending study class, I was having difficulty with the math. But in class we had hands-on practice with it; we could focus on it."

"Going to class helped because math and technical definitions were broken down by our instructor to the simplest form, which made it so that everybody understood," Matthew said.

Without focused study, it is difficult to pass the state exams. "Completing the residential exam is necessary and it's important because it prepares us to have a deeper understanding of the water aspect of the state's commercial certification test," Shawn said.

Ferdinand, Shawn and Matthew will continue attending the study class as they prepare for the State's commercial certification test, tentatively scheduled for late 2020.



Left to Right: Matthew Street, Ferdinand Clarke, Jr. and Shawn Stanley

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.

98 adult students participated in classes at **5 sites** throughout the county:

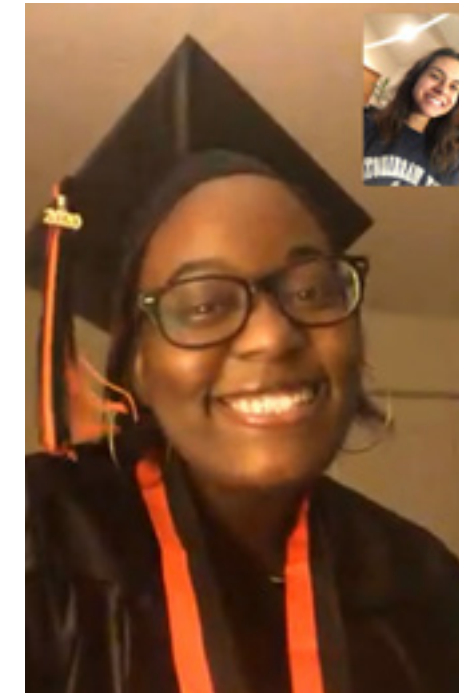
- Faith Farm Ministries (GED)
- Frenchman's Creek Country Club (Workplace-specific English)
- Lakeshore Apartments (ESOL)
- Edward J. Healey Nursing & Rehabilitation Center (ESOL)
- City of West Palm Beach (GED and Workplace-specific needs)

5 students received their **GED**

3 students passed workplace licensure exams

Literacy AmeriCorps

"Throughout this year, I had a student who came to see me each day at the end of the day. Some days we would work on homework, essays and college applications, and other days we would just talk and laugh about whatever was going on. This past weekend, she graduated. She called me with her graduation attire on, smiling and full of joy. As we shared our thoughts on the virtual graduation, she began to thank me for everything I did. She told me that she thought of me as an older sister – a role model. I started to cry. Not because I felt like I did something for her, but because I know I pushed her enough to accomplish things herself and put in work towards what she wanted. There were many times she felt unmotivated or like she couldn't do something, but I never gave up on her and was always available for support. There were also times where I got frustrated from her frustration, but I tried to calm myself down each time and think



Graduation Coach Hina Zafar shares in her student's success (virtually).

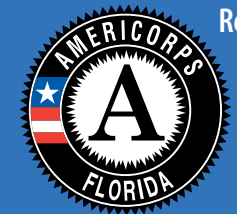
positively. Even making a difference in the life of one student makes this whole year worth it. So thank you, AmeriCorps, for this amazing experience."

– Hina Zafar, Graduation Coach



AmeriCorps members complete a variety of service projects – including gleaning.

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.

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

1497 at-risk youth were coached, tutored and mentored for academic success.

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

188 children and youth were provided with homework help.

Corporation for
NATIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE



volunteerflorida

Stories and STEM

The tradition of bringing unique, high-quality programming to children in afterschool and summer camps continues with the Stories and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program. The goal of this past year was to bring new and innovative programs to students and staff alike.

Children were introduced to new experiments paired with some of their favorite stories. For example, students explored vibrations and sound after reading the Dr. Seuss classic, *Horton Hears a Who*, and then built "bee buzzers" to take home. Kids dove into the world of bio-indicators by creating tie-dyed origami frogs and listening to frog sounds along with Marianne Berkes' *Marsh Music*.

But perhaps the biggest adjustment to SAS came with the new demands upon educators during the pandemic. Children were shifted to a home school environment and adapted – along with parents and teachers – to new formats of learning and technology.

Through the long-standing partnership with Prime Time Palm Beach County, the Extended Learning Opportunity (ELO) of SAS

continued to serve the community by creating unique STEM programs for kindergarten through eighth grade. The one-page lesson plans and supporting video tutorials provide children and their educators with easy to create at-home experiments like solar ovens and DIY stethoscopes.

Local science teacher at Calusa Elementary, Cyndi Yates-Buckley, chose to use some of the lessons and videos to support her students. She even shared the resources on the PBC Teacher's Facebook page!

"I had [my students] watch the surface tension video with the option to try it. Those that did it reported how much they loved it. Plus, most all the kids had the items to try it themselves. Several parents thanked me because they had fun," said Yates-Buckley. "I just wanted to shout out to the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County for creating easy to do standards-based experiments that my kids are loving! I sent my kids the option of doing some of these and the pictures and parent compliments have been flooding in!"



Students worked as a team to build their STEM skills in Stanford's Spaghetti Marshmallow Challenge.

BY THE NUMBERS

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

In March, we adapted our services to offer distance learning by posting 72 easy-to-use, at-home, literacy-based activity plans while gearing up to provide live virtual instruction and literacy kits.

Stories and STEM is made possible with support from Prime Time Palm Beach County, Inc., which receives significant funding for its overall operations from the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County.

More than 2,500 books were distributed to children and after school sites.

833 K-5 children were enriched by the program in 193 classes at 17 sites.



Learning about surface tension in the best way – by making bubbles!

Building Better Readers

Our Building Better Readers program continues to help children build reading skills. Trained volunteers are placed in first and second grade classrooms to tutor struggling readers in reading comprehension. During the 2019-2020 school year, 166 volunteers tutored 396 first and second grade students in 24 elementary schools and an additional 25 volunteers tutored 41 first through fourth grade students after school at the Literacy Coalition, for a total of 191 volunteers tutoring 437 students.

When schools closed in March due to the coronavirus pandemic, we began virtual tutoring for 19 of our after school students so they could continue to strengthen their reading skills. We expanded this, adding an additional 41 students.

"After 30+ years as an elementary teacher... I have found a new love and purpose. Jose, a first grader, started as a low Level D reader and made a leap to Level J grade level, with much joy in his accomplishment. Jose began to read for meaning. He



Juneyvonne tutors Milodia.

would pause to reflect on whether the word he read made sense. If it didn't, he self-corrected and reread on his own. He loved the one-on-one time and would share that he "loved to read now", – Karen, aka Miss KK, Volunteer Tutor.



Tracey tutors Hawk.



Karen, aka Miss KK, and Jose reading "You Read to Me, I'll Read to You".

BY THE NUMBERS

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 sixth year of providing the Building Better Readers program. We recruit, train and support community volunteers to tutor children with very limited reading skills.

396 first and second grade students in **24** schools were tutored by **166** volunteer tutors during the **2019-2020** school year.

25 volunteers tutored **41** children in first through fourth grade after school at the Blume Literacy Center.

62% of the children were at least **50%** closer to grade level reading when schools closed in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reach Out and Read

Reach Out and Read gives me the opportunity to talk to families about how important it is to share stories with their kids from the beginning. When I give a book to the really young babies, many parents seem surprised that they should start reading books with them that early.

Many families don't have the extra money to spend on books so it's a nice way to help them build a library at home. I encourage them to help their children learn just through simply sharing a picture book, even before the child can talk. It doesn't require a lot of money or time or an education degree. Just a few minutes each day can show kids that reading is fun. I often tell parents that they don't need to stick to the text. They can just talk about the pictures, invent their own stories – every little bit of exposure helps boost their children's vocabulary. Storytime also

gives the parent and child some time to bond together. Once they start, they often find it becomes a favorite routine at bedtime or naptime. A few minutes of peace and quiet can help everyone!

– Amber Huges, ARNP of
Children's Clinic, Belle Glade.



Kids start building their at-home library at an early age with donated books through the ROR program!

Early Literacy Book Distribution

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

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.

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.



49,798 books
were distributed at
well child checkups by
84 practitioners
at **39 clinics.**

BY THE NUMBERS

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

29,000 books
were provided to
12 Healthy Beginning
Program partners
for distribution to families
with young children.

Budding Readers

The Budding Reader program's Reading Partner, Mrs. Williams, is extremely proud of Sophia's transformation from a shy and timid child who was reluctant to participate in the Budding Readers program when the school year started, to an eager and enthusiastic participant in their weekly reading sessions together. Mrs. Williams added that, "Once Sophia was comfortable coming to our reading sessions, she did not want to stop. She would beg to come with me each time I entered her classroom."

Initially Sophia's expressive language was difficult to understand, but as she settled into our one-to-one weekly reading session routine and participated in the interactive literacy activities planned, Mrs. Williams observed a steady improvement in her ability to express herself. As her expressive language improved, so did her confidence to comment and make predictions about the

story being read, and her ability to comprehend and retell the story in her own words.

While participating in the program, Sophia learned how to properly handle and identify the different parts of a book, turn the pages in sequence and distinguish between the text and pictures. With the dramatic increase in her alphabetic knowledge, she mastered the recognition and spelling of her name with ease, along with learning colors, shapes and counting sequentially up to 14.

Mrs. Williams was very encouraged by the progress Sophia made over the year, and delighted to see how she grew to love the Budding Readers program and the take-home books she received to start a home library. *Brown Bear, Brown Bear* and *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* were her favorite take-home books and she often requested that Mrs. Williams reread those books during their sessions together. Her mother has shared that, "It is incredible how Sophia knows everything about the books. She wants me to read with her every night. She loves reading with Mrs. Williams and we truly value everything she does for our daughter."

Mrs. Williams said, "Sophia greatly benefited from participating in the Budding Readers program. It was a rewarding experience to work with her to develop the foundational literacy skills she will need for future academic success, and a real joy to observe her blossom into a child who loves books, reading and learning."



Sophia displays her art project for "The Very Hungry Caterpillar"

BY THE NUMBERS

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

2 Reading Partners served
32 children at 2 Budding
Readers partnership sites.

352 books were
distributed to children to
begin a home library.

80% of the children
demonstrated development in
the early literacy skills needed
for future **academic**
success in school.

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

"I would say that the Budding Readers has impacted all of the children in the Shining Stars classroom participating in the program. The children always come back and tell me the different songs, letters and books that they have learned with Mrs. Williams. On the days you are not at the school, they ask for you and if it is their turn to go with you."

– Ms. Taiyanna Daffin
Opportunity Early Childhood
Education and Family Center

ParentChild+

When Early Learning Specialist Joliette started providing the ParentChild+ program through Boys Town South Florida to little Erwens and family, Mom was having a difficult time finding a healthy work/life balance. She had hired a babysitter to take care of the children while she was at work. However, this arrangement did not prove to be ideal for the family as the babysitter was not consistently showing up and Mom would have to miss work, which disrupted the structure in the children's daily routine. Consequently, Erwens had major behavioral issues and things were very chaotic during the home sessions. Many times, Mom would run late for the sessions or cancel them altogether.

So very early on in the program, Joliette made a referral for a CSC child care scholarship, knowing the structure of a child care program would greatly benefit Erwens and also help Mom. She was very grateful for the child care and began making more of an effort to leave work in time to make it home for the sessions. She was also more engaged. However, Erwens' behavior did not improve as expected by Mom & Joliette, even though he was now in a more structured environment during the day.

Then the pandemic happened, and visits were now virtual. At first, Joliette and Mom did not expect the sessions would be productive over a video call due to the child's behavior. But it proved to be the opposite. Erwens was now more engaged than ever as he enjoyed interacting with Joliette by video. He was now so delighted that he was staying seated for the entire 30-minute session. Joliette also noticed that Mom's demeanor changed. She now had a permanent smile on her face



ParentChild+ supports preschool age children and their families.

and was more actively involved in the sessions herself.

As the weeks went on, things only got better. Erwens was now imitating the actions of the characters in the books with a big smile on his face. He had also begun engaging in the picture walks. He was truly enjoying the sessions, making great developmental gains, and no longer squirming in his seat to try to get away.

Mom is so amazed with the unexpected changes she has seen in Erwens since the virtual sessions started that she is actually taking the time to learn how to picture read all the program books in Creole and has also been making an effort to read them in English. Mom says the video sessions have proven to be a life changer for the family. What she initially thought was a setback turned out to be the best thing that could have happened for Erwens. She says he is a different child now and a pleasure to interact with thanks to their participation in the ParentChild+ program.

BY THE NUMBERS

ParentChild+ 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.

23,105 home visits
were conducted with
647 families.

5,572 books and
5,133 educational
toys were distributed.

100% of families
increased positive
verbal interactions.

100% of children
increased positive
behaviors.

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.



Read! Lead! Succeed! Manager Nancy Birardi and Living Hungry's Maura Plante

At ten summer camps across the county, Literacy Coalition staff increased students' understanding of food insecurity and the rewards associated with helping those in need. Throughout six literature-based lessons, young campers read and discussed literature written about hunger. Even if the young campers had experienced hunger, they participated in activities designed to increase empathy and compassion for others who were experiencing hunger. As the summer progressed, the children were motivated to give back by creating and following through

on an action plan to feed the hungry across Palm Beach County.

In partnership with Maura Plante from *Living Hungry*, a local food insecurity expert, camps were able to select a specific population within the county which they wished to serve. Campers worked collaboratively to not only select a group, but also to serve that group by packaging foods provided by the Literacy Coalition and by writing encouraging notes to those in need. Camps were able to provide their packages of food in one of four different ways. Some camps provided energy foods to teens in downtown West Palm Beach who were trying to stay off the streets by spending time at the Police Athletic League. Other camps selected cultural treats to give to a shelter in Palm Beach County where refugee girls who had been separated from their parents were residing. A handful of camps selected to package food for nutritious meals for families in shelters. A few chose to give healthy snacks to teen boys at therapeutic schools who were struggling with family and academic issues.

The results of the Read! Lead! Succeed! Program astonished Emily E. Zarzycki, Camp Director for CROS Ministries: "CROS Ministries had an outstanding experience with this program. It was nice to see our campers step outside of their normal life circumstances to give to others. They are in great need themselves. They stuffed bags and made cards knowing other families were going to have something to eat in the days to come. Markers and crayons were flying everywhere at one station while others were stuffing bags at another. It was a proud moment for me as their Director, seeing them take joy in giving back."

BY THE NUMBERS

Read! Lead! Succeed! offers a social emotional learning curriculum, using high-quality children's literature and literature-based activities. For the first eight months of the year, we provided in-person direct instruction to youth while modeling for staff.

In March, we adapted our services to offer distance learning by posting 72 easy-to-use, at-home, literacy-based activity plans while gearing up to provide live virtual instruction and literacy kits.

Read! Lead! Succeed! is made possible with support from Prime Time Palm Beach County, Inc., which receives significant funding for its overall operations from the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County.

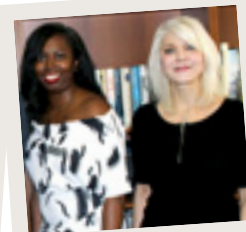
12 out-of-school
time programs
participated

144 classes were
provided

498 children received
direct instruction



Annual Donors



The Literacy Luminary Society – \$25,000+

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Lawrence A. Sanders Foundation, Inc.
Mary Alice Fortin Foundation
Wilkins Family Foundation

The Literacy Leadership Society – \$10,000–\$24,999

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The Literacy Advocate Society – \$2,500–\$4,999

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The Avid Reader Society – \$1,000–\$2,499

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WPBF 25
WPTV 5

Thank you to our special event donors who were recognized at each event.



Partners

21st Century Community Learning Centers	Crosspointe Elementary
Achievement Centers for Children and Families	Crystal Lakes Elementary Afterschool
Adopt-a-Family of the Palm Beaches	Delray Pediatrics
Afterschool Connections at Franklin Academy	DePorres Place
April is for Authors	Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary
The ARC of Palm Beach County	Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary & Afterschool
Believers Academy	Edna Runner Tutorial Center
Belvedere Elementary & Afterschool	EdVenture Charter School
Benoist Farms Elementary	El Sol
Boca Raton Elementary	Executive Women of the Palm Beaches Foundation
Boynton Beach City Library	Faith Farm Ministries
Boynton Beach Community High School	Faith's Place
Boys Town South Florida	Faith Lutheran Afterschool
Bridges at Belle Glade	Families First of Palm Beach County
Bridges at Boynton Beach	Family Health Care Services
Bridges at Highland	For the Children at Barton Elementary
Bridges at Lake Park	Forest Hill Community High School
Bridges at Lake Worth	Forest Hill Elementary Afterschool
Bridges at Lake Worth West	Forest Park Elementary
Bridges at Northwood	Foundcare
Bridges at Pahokee	Frenchman's Creek
Bridges at Riviera Beach	Galaxy E3 Elementary & Afterschool
Bridges at West Palm Beach	Gentle Medicine Associates
Brito Medical Center	Golden Grove Elementary Afterschool
Center for Family Services of Palm Beach County	Gove Elementary
Children's Clinic	Greenacres Elementary Afterschool
Children's Home Society of Florida	The Guatemalan-Maya Center & Summer Camp & Escuelita Maya
Children's Physicians	Hammock Pointe Elementary
Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County	Health Care District of Palm Beach County: Edward J. Healey Rehabilitations & Nursing Center
City of Greenacres	Healthy Beginnings Nurses
City of West Palm Beach	Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Palm Beach County, Inc.
Classical Home Education Community (CHEC)	
C.L. Brumback Primary Care Clinics	
Coleman Park	
C.O. Taylor/Kirklane Elementary Afterschool	
CROS Ministries	

Highland Elementary Afterschool
HomeSafe
Hope-Centennial Elementary & Afterschool
Indian Pines Elementary
J.C. Mitchell Elementary
John I Leonard High School
Jupiter Elementary
Jupiter Pediatric Associates
Kids Academy at West Palm Beach Summer Camp
Kingswood Academy, Greenacres
Kingswood Academy, Palm Springs
Lake Park Elementary
Lake Shore Apartments
Lake Worth Community High School
Lake Worth Pediatrics
Lake Worth West Resident Planning Group
Lantana Elementary & Afterschool
Leadership Palm Beach County
Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County
Lincoln Elementary
Living Hungry
The Lord's Place, Inc.
Loving Tender Pediatrics
Mandel Public Library of West Palm Beach
Mary Hunt "Love Education" Foundation
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New Hope Charities, Inc.
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Nurse Family Partnership
Opportunity Early Childhood Education & Family Center
Orchard View Elementary
Ounce of Prevention Fund
Pahokee Pediatric Associates
Palm Beach County Health Department
Palm Beach County Library System
Palm Beach County Youth Services Department

Palm Beach Lakes High School
Palm Beach Pediatrics
Palm Beach State College – TRIO
Palmetto Elementary Afterschool
Pediatric Associates
Pediatric Center of Belle Glade
Physicians Park Medical Group
Pine Grove Elementary
Pine Jog Elementary Afterschool
Plumosa School of the Arts
Poinciana Elementary Afterschool
Prime Time Palm Beach County
Rolling Green Elementary & Afterschool
Royal Palm Pediatrics
The School District of Palm Beach County
The School District of Palm Beach County – Department of Adult Education
Seitz Pediatrics
Soma Medical Centers
South Grade Elementary & Afterschool
South Tech Academy
Spirit of Giving Network
Starlight Cove Elementary & Afterschool
Take Stock in Children
Tenet Florida Physicians Services
Tiny Tikes Academy
United Way of Palm Beach County
Village Academy
Westgate Elementary Afterschool
Westward Elementary
WHIN Program: Women's Health Initiative Network
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Lion Country Safari	Zoo Miami
The Little Club	
Live Nation – Coral Sky Ampitheatre	
Lynn University	
Melanie Magalhaes	

Statement of Financial Position

As of June 30, 2019

ASSETS	
Cash and Investments	\$2,746,646
Grants and Allocations Receivable	486,725
Pledges Receivable	115,275
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets	23,895
Property and Equipment, Net	2,818,397
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$6,190,938</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$243,226
Accrued Compensation	111,588
Refundable Advance	150,000
Total Liabilities	<u>\$504,814</u>
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	\$5,225,477
Temporarily Restricted	460,647
Total Net Assets	<u>\$5,686,124</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$6,190,938</u>

Statement of Financial Activities

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019

REVENUES AND PUBLIC SUPPORT	
Gifts and Grants	\$4,930,003
Special Events	344,042
Investment Income	12,755
Unrealized Gain/Loss	6,679
Contributions In-Kind	262,846
Program Service Fees	277,036
TOTAL REVENUES AND PUBLIC SUPPORT	<u>\$5,833,361</u>
EXPENSES	
Programs	\$4,856,532
Management and General	410,361
Fundraising	402,790
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$5,669,683</u>
Change in Net Assets	\$163,678
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	5,522,446
Net Assets at End of Year	<u>\$5,686,124</u>
Percent Used for Fundraising	7%

Board of Directors



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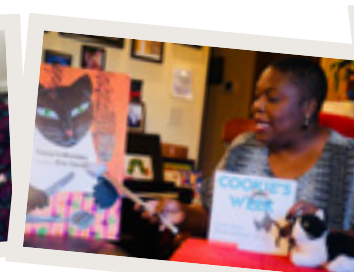
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Nancy Birardi
Read! Lead! Succeed! Manager

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Family Literacy

Trudy Crowetz
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ParentChild+ Lead Director

Molly Felmet
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Literacy AmeriCorps Manager

Jeanne Heavilin
Building Better Readers Manager

Brad Hertzberg
Literacy AmeriCorps Director

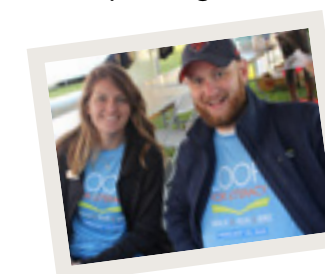
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Miriam Laing
Database Manager

Dawn Larkin
Communications Coordinator

Imelda Neary
Inventory Specialist

Diane Pacheco
Chief Operating Officer



Callie Sharkey
Stories and STEM Manager

Jeanne Siccone
Director of Children's Literacy

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Mattie Williams

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Coordinator

Laura Calderon
Coordinator

Alejandro Garzon
Manager

Elidia Guzman
Assistant Coordinator

VILLAGE READERS FAMILY EDUCATION

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Assistant Coordinator

Nephtalie Jean-Baptiste
Career Coach/Enrollment &
Testing Coordinator

Siena Mayers
Manager

Cynthia Michelet
Children's Program Assistant

Ben Schottland
Assistant Coordinator



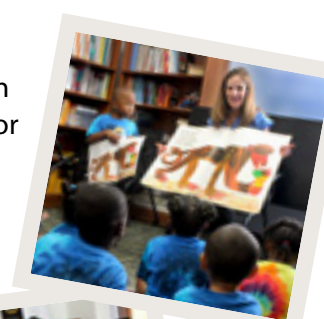
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Bec Baron
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Tyler Blankstein
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Kelsey Rushing
Sarah Schott
Peggie Scott
Sakiya Vaughn
Charlima Victor
Josue Vital
Alexis Wales
Hina Zafar



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 2,025 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 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 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 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 for the Record



Loop for Literacy



Afterschool Tutoring

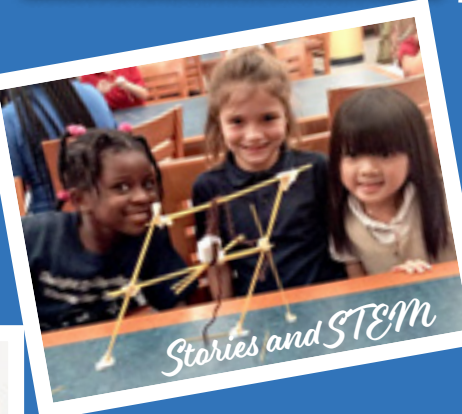
2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS



AmeriCorps



The Grand Bee



Stories and STEM



Loop for Literacy



Building Better Readers



Read Together



Mayers' Literacy Initiative



Book Drives



Island Hospitality



Love of Literacy Luncheon

Thank you
for supporting literacy!



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