



# ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021

*Leading Through Reading*





Building Better Readers



Literacy Links



Loop for Literacy



Volunteers

## 2020-2021 HIGHLIGHTS



Glades Family Education



Read for the Record



Great Charity Challenge



Stories and STEM



Loop for Literacy



Book Drives



Kendra Scott Shop for Good



AmeriCorps CPR Training



Staff School Supplies



Literacy Links

### LEADING THROUGH READING

#### 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

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 and can't fill out a job application or read a bus schedule.

46% 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 **46,867** adults, children, youth and families through our programs

Literacy AmeriCorps members provided **56,574** hours of service – teaching, tutoring and mentoring • 234 adults • 1,662 teens • 212 children

We distributed **102,536** books to children, families and organizations



#### LITERACY COALITION RECOGNIZED IN TOP 1% OF CHARITIES NATIONWIDE

The Literacy Coalition has earned 12 consecutive 4-out-of-4 star ratings from Charity Navigator.



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LEN GRAY

Shortly before the start of the pandemic, I was asked to consider the possibility of becoming Board President of the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County. I was honored and excited to become more involved and, of course, could not imagine the experiences and opportunities which would be ahead of us as I began my first term. Just think of all that has happened since Jean Kwok arrived at the Kravis Center for the Love of Literacy Luncheon on March 12, 2020. Each of us as individuals, and the Literacy Coalition as an organization, have had to make many difficult decisions during the past year. We survived something onerous and are stronger for doing so.

The Literacy Coalition's response to the pandemic represents significant positive change generated in part out of necessity and in part out of creativity, as we were striving to fulfill our mission to improve the quality of life in our community by promoting and achieving literacy.

In a matter of weeks, we went virtual. Teaching, tutoring, training, recruiting and fundraising was rapidly transitioned to online delivery. Traditional events for connecting literacy advocates and supporters such as the Mayors' Literacy Initiative Luncheon, Read Together Palm Beach County, Adult Essay Recognition and Read for the Record were delivered via creative virtual campaigns with great success and with increased participation for many of the events.

We had a banner year with 40 Literacy AmeriCorps members teaching and mentoring as in the past along with added contributions distributing PPE gear, sorting at food pantries and even assisting at COVID vaccination sites.

More than 100 volunteers were recruited and trained to tutor online to over 190 Building Better Readers student participants. The Coalition distributed 102,536 books throughout Palm Beach County.

In terms of organizational leadership, board members were added, virtual fundraising platforms were implemented and historic strong financial results were sustained. The Literacy Coalition has emerged as a stronger and more deeply capable organization to ensure better futures for many in the years ahead.

I would like to thank our dedicated board members, energetic volunteers, talented staff, committed CEO and generous donors and sponsors. You all are critical to the continuing success of the Literacy Coalition and your many contributions are greatly appreciated.



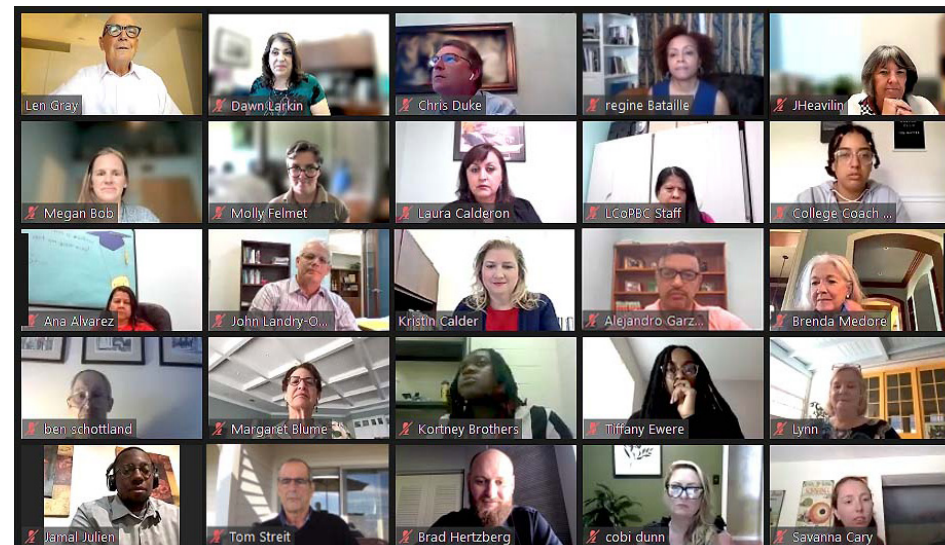
Len proves you can "LOOP Your Way" anywhere.



Len and CEO Kristin Calder were presented with a generous grant from Bank of America.



Len greets players at the Literacy Links Golf Tournament in June, 2021.



Len addresses guests online at the Literacy Coalition Annual Meeting, June 2021.



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 this report, you will learn about our literacy efforts and the many adaptations we've made in challenging times to achieve success for the 46,867 adults, children, youth and families we served in this past year.

Our exceptional staff continued to deliver innovative programming featuring high-quality literature to help students learn skills and comprehend timely topics. For example, students in our Read! Lead! Succeed! program enhanced their literacy and emotional management skills through lessons like "Mistakes Happen" and "Dealing with Change", which we have all had to learn this year.

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 an important way for 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 adapted to virtual meetings 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.

It was also an exciting year of growth as our Endowment (Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition Foundation, Inc.) expanded to help sustain our impact in our community for future generations. We thank donors like Margaret Blume for her lead support in recent years to help create the Foundation.

We are proud of our 2020-2021 accomplishments. Our success would not have been as significant without the members of our community who give to our programs, initiatives and events in support of our mission and vision. Our impact and reach are increased with your help and we thank you for being a part of the Literacy family.



Kristin being interviewed by WPTV 5 on National Reading Day about the Scripps Howard Foundation book donation.



Read for the Record was supported by PNC executives Kim Reckley (L) and Cressman E. Bronson (R) with Kristin.



Margaret Blume with Kristin at the 2021 Literacy Links Golf Tournament.

*Thank you, Literacy Volunteers!*

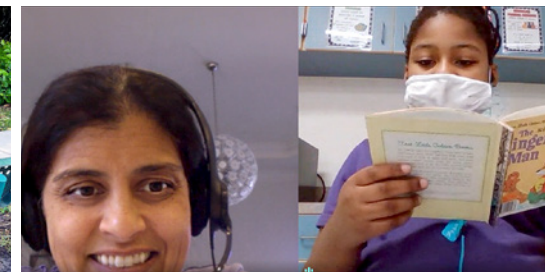
Giving the time to help our cause, recognizing a difference can be made, we thank our many volunteers who support the Coalition's mission.



Thank you to our Board of Directors for lending expertise, support and guidance to the Coalition and our event committee volunteers who helped secure funds for our programs. L to R: Nancy Vera, Robert Mitchell, Joe Grant, Matt Criscuolo and Maggie Dickenson.



Thank you to innovative volunteers like "America's Bilingual Century" author and "Conversation Corps" creator Steve Leveen who volunteers with adult students like Pedro. Throughout the past year, they met outdoors by a banyan tree for conversation exchange.



Building Better Readers volunteer tutors like Archana Chawla adapted to provide virtual sessions to help students continue improving their reading. We have trained more than 585 volunteers and served 3,500 students since the program began in the Fall of 2014.



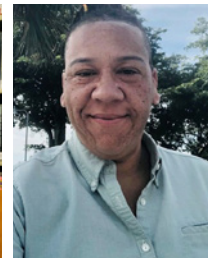
# Read Together Palm Beach County



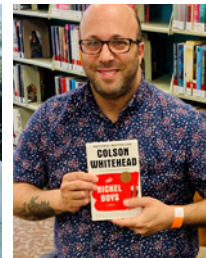
Ben Montgomery



Laurie Gildan



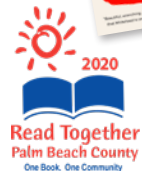
Dr. Lauren Chambers



Adam Davis



Carol Rose



Colson Whitehead

Thousands of adults, community partners and sponsors joined the Literacy Coalition in the 12th 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 to bring the community together to discuss key themes in the book.

Our 2020 selected title was *The Nickel Boys* by New York Times bestselling author Colson Whitehead. The book was

inspired by the revelations of a reform school in Florida that operated for 111 years and warped the lives of thousands of children, covered by Ben Montgomery's series in the *Tampa Bay Times* about abuse at the Arthur G. Dozier School for Boys in Marianna, Florida.

Book discussions were held throughout the county including at The Book Cellar, Serenity Teahouse & Cafe, Palm Beach County libraries and municipal libraries. The online finale on November 18 featured an interview with Mr. Montgomery and commentary by community leaders pictured in this section.

## THANK YOU TO OUR READ TOGETHER PARTNERS



# Read for the Record



The Literacy Coalition, and our local partner PNC Bank, joined Jumpstart's national Read for the Record campaign on October 29, 2020, by distributing hundreds of books to over 600 childcare centers and coordinating volunteers to read to 21,124 children at 75 sites.

The 2020 book was *Evelyn Del Rey is Moving Away*, by Meg Medina and illustrated by Sonia Sanchez. It is a celebration of lasting friendship, the power of connection and encountering change.

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 87 Municipal Leaders and staff that read virtually to 15,759 children throughout the county.

The Village of Wellington was the winner of the Large municipalities, The Village of Palm Springs was the winner of the Mid-Size municipalities and The Village of North Palm Beach was the winner of the Small municipalities.



Sunny 107.9 FM Radio personality Bill Adams



WPTV 5 reporter Tania Rogers



A child in Wellington enjoying his book



The Town of Lake Park displayed a StoryWalk.



PNC executive Kim Reckley read virtually to children and their parents at the Glades Family Education program (below).



Mayor Susan Bickel reads to Allamanda Elementary

# Mayors' Literacy Initiative



Village of Tequesta



Town of Lake Park



Town of Lake Park



Town of Hypoluxo



Town of Manalapan

The Literacy Coalition hosted the 13th annual Mayors' Literacy Initiative event online in September, in partnership with The Palm Beach County League of Cities and sponsor Comcast, represented by Carla Roderick, Regional Director, External Affairs.

The Literacy Coalition encouraged the mayors and guests to help develop a community of readers in each of their municipalities, including participation with "Read for the Record" and "Read Together Palm Beach County."

Since we could not meet in-person, the Coalition delivered boxes of books and information to all the municipalities.



City of South Bay



City of Boynton Beach



City of Belle Glade

Carla Roderick addressed the mayors during the online presentation.



City of West Palm Beach

Palm Beach County League of Cities

# Sharing Books

Thanks to book drives and donations from our generous community partners and individuals, the Literacy Coalition collected 12,115 children's books. We were able to share these books with organizations throughout the County to support their children's literacy programming.



Scripps Howard Foundation book donation



American Heritage School book drive



Jeanne Siccone with Allison Goff from the Flagler Museum with their Spirit Committee book drive donation.

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



Coleman Park's Afterschool program



Brownies from Girl Scouts Troop 22222



Young Singers of the Palm Beaches book drive



# Literacy Links Golf Tournaments

## November 13, 2020

The Literacy Coalition's 4th Annual Literacy Links golf tournament was held November 13, 2020 at the Palm Beach Par 3. Postponed from the spring, we were thrilled to have 50 players safely come out to support the Literacy Coalition, helping raise nearly \$35,000 for our literacy efforts. Thank you to our presenting sponsor Brenda Medore and supporters including Publix Supermarket Charities, Ed Morse Automotive Group and an Anonymous Donor. Special thanks to Literacy Coalition Board Member Nancy Vera, who served as Event Chair.



The 2020 winning foursome, L to R: Iain Calder, Harrison Calder, Glen Calder and Dr. Peter Bonutti.



## June 11, 2021

The Literacy Coalition's 5th Annual Literacy Links golf tournament was held on June 11, 2021 at the Palm Beach Par 3 with 53 golfers and sponsors supporting the Literacy Coalition. The tournament, which included lunch and a silent auction, helped to raise more than \$25,000 for our literacy programs. Thank you to sponsors Ed Morse Automotive Group and an Anonymous Donor and Event Chair Nancy Vera.



The 2021 winning foursome, L to R: Literacy AmeriCorps member Luciana Garcia, Craig Tanner and Dennis Drucker from Ed Morse and Literacy AmeriCorps member Devin Rosenberger.

# The Grand Bee Literary Fun & Games



The Literacy Coalition's Grand Bee created a buzz October 29, 2021 with teams competing online with literary-themed trivia. The theme, **A Year of Mystery**, was presented in an exciting virtual game show style format. The event marked the 29th year for the Bee, which started as the Great Grown-Up Spelling Bee in 1992. Points and prizes were awarded for each round with Team NCCI being the grand prize winners!

Thank you: Literacy Coalition Board members Kimberly Lea and Chris Duke, who served as Co-Chairs; Park Avenue BBQ Grille for providing refreshments and swag bags and Bee team sponsors: Akerman LLP, Cozen O'Connor, Florida Crystals Corporation, Florida Power & Light, NCCI and *The Palm Beach Post*.



BuzzBee BookBee



# LOOP for Literacy

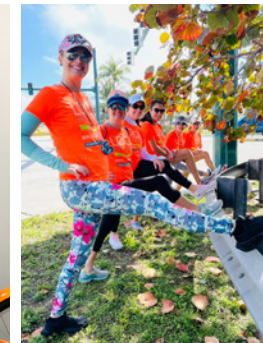


More than \$80,000 was raised in the 11th Annual LOOP for Literacy thanks to more than 250 donors and 300 bikers, runners and walkers who safely LOOPED in the manner, time and place of their choice as they embraced LOOP YOUR WAY!

Florida Crystals, our presenting sponsor, LOOP founder Steve Leveen and his wife Lori of Levenger Foundation and Domino Sugar as our Gold Sponsors, the Sugar Cane Growers CO-OP, Lorium Law, and NCCI as our Bronze Sponsors, all deserve special recognition.

Thanks to LOOP Chairs Joe Grant and Andy Loewenstein who not only rallied the community, but their respective colleagues at Marshall Grant/Lorium Law and Holland & Knight to place them both among the Top 5 Team Fundraisers, which also included Trailwood, the Racy Readers and Team Taft.

Congratulations to our Top Individual Fundraisers including Literacy Board President Len Gray, Lorium Law's Brent Chudachek, Nancy Zarcadoolas, Andy Loewenstein and Chris and Tom Streit.





# Glades Family Education

Lili, her husband and her then one-year-old son, Erik moved to Belle Glade from Mexico 10 years ago.

Not knowing English, Lili felt lonely, frustrated and incompetent. She was excited to learn about Glades Family Education and enrolled in classes when Erik was two-years-old. At first, a neighbor took care of her son while she attended classes, but as soon as he turned three, Erik joined Glades Family Education with Lili.

Lili shared, "I value and appreciate that I am able to be at the same place with my child and learning together at the Glades Family Education Center."

Lili was so happy with her experience with Erik at Glades Family Education, that a couple of years later, she continued the program with her second child, Melanie, and yet again now, with her third child, Frankie. Both of Lili's older children are doing great in school, and Lili knows that Frankie will be just as prepared to succeed.

In addition to preparing her children for kindergarten, Lili is improving her own English language skills. She says, "Even though I still have a lot more to learn, I can have a conversation in English and understand what I read, hear or see around me. The English that I have learned at Glades Family Education has allowed me to be more independent and feel more confident in myself. I can make and attend doctor's appointments without the need for interpreters. I can also help my children with their homework, and even communicate with their teachers.

In 2017, with the help of our program, Lili achieved her goal of becoming a US citizen. She is currently self-studying how to make cakes and wants start her own cake business. Eventually, she would also like to become a translator in a school.



Lili is proud to be able to participate in helping her son Frankie learn to read and count.



## 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. Staff members help parents learn how to support their child's learning by interacting together through meaningful activities. The program also 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 75 adults and 16 children.**

**80% 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.**

**397 books were distributed.**

# Village Readers Family Education



Carline and her son Carl love learning together.

Carline is a mom of three boys, Jamal, Carl, and Alexander, ages 16, 6, and 3. She moved to the United States in 2015 and recalls being scared and sad, not speaking the language and feeling unwelcome. Although she had learned some English in Haiti, she struggled to find a job with a sustainable wage. She was unable to help her oldest son with his homework, and she was dependent on translators. When her second son, Carl, began kindergarten, Carline learned about the Village Readers Family Education program and decided to enroll. She's so glad that she did. In less than two years, her English has improved tremendously. She feels confident speaking with other people, she can help her children with their homework, and she has received praise from her boss and a raise at work. When she recently

took her youngest son to the doctor and understood everything the doctor said, she told her teacher, "I was so proud of me!"

Carline's commitment and investment in her own education is mirrored in her investment in her children's education. As part of the Village Readers Family Education program, her son Carl receives afternoon reading tutoring and Carline loves watching him learn. She is always sure to express her gratitude to his volunteer tutor who has helped him gain multiple levels in his reading this year.

Carline also attends the Village Readers evening storytime with her children each night, eager to share in the books and discussions with her boys. Carline knows the importance of education and is excited to share that value with her children.

## 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. 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. 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.

**117 adults and 43 children participated in the evening program.**

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

**80% of the children tutored made significant improvements in reading.**

**87% of adults tested demonstrated significant learning gains in their English language skills.**

**11 community volunteers contributed 341 hours of service and 452 books were distributed.**



# Workplace & Community Education

The Workplace and Community Education Program has partnered with the City of West Palm Beach for many years providing employees with on-site GED preparation classes. When COVID-19 shut down in-person teaching in March 2020, the prospects dimmed for the GED students in the Public Utilities Department. However, with the advent of Zoom classes, a silver lining appeared that no one was expecting – increased computer literacy skills.

Student Rodney Brown had little-to-no computer literacy skills even though he was adept at using his mobile phone. When the only option to participate in his Workplace GED class was via Zoom, Rodney stepped-up and learned how to use the computer to login to classes. He also began to improve keyboarding skills – necessary for taking the GED that's only offered online. Rodney's office computer didn't have a camera, so he spent the first months using both computer and cellphone. Later, a co-worker loaned him his tablet, giving Rodney audio and video access. Seeing his dedication to learning, Rodney's manager



*Donovan vastly increased his comfort with technology.*

provided him with his own tablet, so he is now excited to be learning on that device as well.

New student, Donovan Williams, expressed interest in obtaining his GED and enrolled in the online class in July. He too needed to increase his computer literacy skills to participate in class. As his comfort level and typing skills have progressed, Donovan is proud to regularly type his answers into the chat.

The Literacy Coalition provided Rodney and Donovan with headsets, Texas Instruments calculators, dry-erase boards and markers to maintain their immersive experience in the learning environment. In addition to preparing for the GED and expanding their tactical skills on the computer, Rodney and Donovan are understanding how Internet searches work and getting accustomed to answering questions in an online format. They have achieved a comfort level with computers that will be a major factor in passing the GED test and open up additional opportunities.



*Rodney expanded both his literacy and computer skills.*

## 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. In response to COVID-19, all classes in the 2020-2021 program year were offered virtually via Zoom.

**16 adult students participated in classes at two sites throughout the county:**

- Frenchman's Creek Country Club (Workplace-specific English)
- City of West Palm Beach (GED and Workplace-specific needs)

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

**100% of students passed their workplace licensure exams.**

# Literacy AmeriCorps

Our Literacy AmeriCorps members transform lives through literacy. A few members share here about the impact they've made:

"As a Reading Tutor, I had the privilege of working with Maria, a joyous first grade student who is often dancing and singing through the hallways. Each day, I ask her if she remembers what we read together the day prior and without fail, she can recount the exact details of our stories before enthusiastically announcing she cannot wait for this day's new story. At the onset of working with Maria, she struggled to identify individual letter sounds and to put them together to read and write words. When she made mistakes while reading aloud, it would be difficult for her. Through incredible hard work and determination, we worked together each day through the end of the school year. Today, she is an excellent reader who exhibits the techniques we have worked on together. After reading a sentence with a few mistakes, she will pause and say, 'That doesn't make sense.' She will try again to fix her mistakes and to solve hard words rather than simply giving up. Maria is ready for second grade as a result of her determination and excitement she brings to reading. I am grateful for the opportunity I had to read with Maria. She has taught me patience and grace, showing the reciprocal nature of service to others." – **Katelyn, Elementary School Reading Tutor**

"When SAT scores came out in March, I had a student who found me and said 'MS. MARTIAL, I PASSED!' As we continued to talk she told me that when she saw her scores, I was the first person she wanted to tell because she appreciated how I always checked up and never gave up on her. 'I would not pass if it wasn't for you, I gave up and yet you kept pushing me.' Hearing from students like this reminds me that I am making a difference, not just academically, but in other ways. I can see how her confidence has improved. I'm just happy." – **Magda, Graduation Coach**

"When we started in August, adult literacy student Alejandra was shy and rarely felt comfortable answering or making a guess in front of the class. After a year of attending the class I'm teaching, she is the highest level student. She is always the first person to understand a new grammar concept, and always asks great questions in class. Alejandra has stories for me every week about new situations she was able to understand and speak English outside of class. Comparing September's tests to May's tests, she improved by 66 points in reading and 61 points in listening, which is a huge gain! I feel very proud of Alejandra's improvement!" – **Bailey, Family Literacy Adult Education Teacher**



## BY THE NUMBERS



**AmeriCorps  
Florida**

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.

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

**1,662 at-risk youth were coached, tutored and mentored for academic success.**

**86 children received tutoring and literacy enrichment to improve reading skills.**

**126 children and youth were provided with homework help.**



# Reach Out and Read

The Coalition is proud to oversee the Reach Out and Read program in Palm Beach County. This nationwide, evidence-based program supports pediatric medical professionals in giving literacy advice during well-child checkups from birth to five years of age. Medical professionals use an age-appropriate book as a developmental assessment tool during the exams, talk to the families about reading, and then give the book to the family to take home. 91% of children under age 5 see their doctor at least once a year; Reach Out and Read transforms this trusted existing doctor-patient relationship into a unique literacy intervention.

"Bringing literacy into the exam room not only helps me connect with my

patients, it helps me complete the exam. I had one young patient who was so quiet I really was not sure he could speak yet. I pulled out the book and he started laughing, pointing at the pictures, and telling me the names of all the animals."

– **Dr. Lisa Ferreira, Foundcare**



Dr. Ferreira with a mom and young patient.

## 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.



**42,659** books were distributed at well child checkups by **82** practitioners at **34** clinics.

# Early Literacy Book Distribution



Children start building their at-home library at an early age with books we provide starting at birth at the hospital through our Early Literacy Book Distribution program.

Through the Literacy Coalition's partnership, "HomeSafe Hospital Liaisons provide families with books from birth at the hospital, along with many resources for proper child development. We emphasize that books and reading from an early age can be incredibly powerful. Reading books aloud to children stimulates their imagination and expands their understanding of the world. It helps them develop language, expand

their vocabularies and listening skills. Some parents ask me when the best time is to start reading to their child, and I tell them that they should already have started while the baby was in the womb! Thanks to the Literacy Coalition, we are able to provide every family with resources to stimulate children's growth, development and communication skills." – **Jo Candeloro, HomeSafe Hospital Liaison**

## BY THE NUMBERS

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

**We distributed 36,464** books to **15** different Healthy Beginnings programs through **12** partner agencies.

### HomeSafe Hospital Liaisons:

- Good Samaritan Medical Center
- Jupiter Medical Center
- Wellington Regional Medical Center
- Palms West Hospital
- Bethesda Hospital
- West Boca Medical Center
- Boca Raton Regional Hospital
- St Mary's Medical Center
- Lakeside Medical Center

# Books act as both mirrors and windows for our children...

– **Rudine Sims Bishop**

"When there are enough books to act as both mirrors and windows for all our children, they can see we can celebrate both our differences and our similarities, because they are what make us all human." Educator Rudine Sims Bishop wrote in 1990 that good children's literature should contain "mirrors, windows, and sliding glass doors." Mirrors, to see their own experiences reflected; windows, to see into the lives of others unlike themselves; and sliding glass doors, to imaginatively step into an unfamiliar space and view the world from that perspective.

Selecting books with a wide variety of voices and representations remains an integral part of the Literacy Coalition's programming provided to the community. Our program leaders research and identify diverse and inclusive books to share with the community. Molly Felmet serves as the Coalition's Reach Out and Read Coordinator. Her expertise is valued not only in our community, but on a national scale. She was a member of a committee to help create a "Diverse and Inclusive Booklist", a collaboration among the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Minority Health, Equity and Inclusion, the Book List Committee of the American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Early Childhood and the Reach Out and Read Book Committee.

Sometimes, the right book can build trust and respect between a doctor and patient. Dr. Lisa Ferreira, a Reach Out and Read pediatrician, gave the book "Mommy's Khimar" in a well-child visit where the mother was wearing a khimar, a traditional Islamic head covering. The little girl came back to her next appointment proud to show her doctor photos of the khimar that she wore during Ramadan!

A good diverse selection of books involves several components. The Literacy Coalition's Reach Out and Read book selection includes authors and illustrators from diverse backgrounds to ensure authentic voices fill the shelves. Diversity is also reflected in our community and business partnerships. In addition to working with traditional national wholesale vendors, the Coalition purchases books and seeks local expertise from various partners including the Boynton Beach Afrocentric bookseller Pyramid Books, social justice driven children's bookstore Rohi's Readery and Miami-based Haitian-American author Krystel Armand Kanzki.

Respecting voice also means appreciating the voices of the many languages spoken in our community. The Reach Out and Read collection has a number of bilingual titles where the book includes two languages of text featured throughout the book. Children learn the rhythm and complex nuance of language best in their home language. Consequently, the Coalition's collection of nursery rhymes includes songs and verses originating in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole.

People from cultural traditions around the world call Palm Beach County home. The Literacy Coalition endeavors to provide literature in a rich variety of voices to show our children that they and their experiences matter; and that people with different experiences matter as well, one book at a time.





# ParentChild+

When two-year old Sofi was first enrolled in the ParentChild+ home visiting program, she acted very shy with the Early Learning Specialist, Luciola, from Lake Worth West Resident Planning Group.

Every time Luciola arrived at Sofi's home, she was asleep, had just awakened or was sleepy. Also, little Sofi was not used to meeting strangers and was very attached to her mother.

Luciola shared with Mom that Sofi's shy behavior was typical of many children in the beginning of the program and that it would take a little time for her to develop trust. She also tried to motivate Mom to establish a routine that

would provide a consistent sleeping schedule for Sofi.

Through Mom and Luciola's dedication and persistence, Sofi became more comfortable and confident. She began trusting Luciola and participating more in the sessions. Mom learned new ways to support her daughter's exploration of the educational toys and books provided by the program, and in turn, she noticed a great improvement in Sofi's language, communication and overall development.

After making these strong strides, the pandemic interrupted in-person sessions.

Even though it was difficult for Sofi to understand why, Luciola still visited on video calls twice per week for their regularly scheduled 30-minute sessions. Although it was challenging at first to keep this family engaged on video, Luciola persisted. As a single mother, Sofi's Mom took a hard financial hit when her work hours were cut. Luciola made time to provide extra check-in calls to support Mom. She was also able to gift Mom with emergency funds from the county to help buy food.

After several weeks, Sofi grew eager and excited about the virtual visits. She was ready and waiting for the video calls with a big smile on her face. She began to describe the books in complete sentences and was more verbally interactive with her Mom and Luciola. Sofi was counting, describing objects, recognizing colors, using action words and identifying feelings. Sofi also loves music! Mom and Luciola incorporated singing during the sessions.



Little Sofi joyfully stacks ParentChild+ materials as Early Learning Specialist, Luciola, encourages her.

## 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.

**ParentChild+**  
Equal Possibilities From The Start

**21,445 home visits were conducted with 664 families.**

**5,039 books and 4,606 educational toys were distributed.**

**100% of families increased positive verbal interactions.**

**100% of children increased positive behaviors.**

Sofi's Mom shared that thanks to ParentChild+ program, she has learned to have more structure and consistent routines and she sees how her daughter has improved in all aspects of her development. She notes that above all the learning opportunities, the best thing is that she is now a better teacher for her daughter.

# Building Better Readers

Our Building Better Readers program helps children build better reading comprehension skills and helps them get closer to reading on grade level. During the 2020-2021 school year, all tutoring was provided virtually. Our volunteers learned to use Zoom or Google Meet for their tutoring sessions and learned how to share digital books online with students using various digital libraries. We were able to tutor students in the classroom, relying on teachers to open up a Google Classroom for each volunteer and their students, some of them in the classroom and others attending school virtually. Tutoring our after school students was a little more challenging as our volunteers had to meet them on whatever device they had available: laptop, tablet or cell phone. Altogether, 190 students who struggled with reading were able to increase their reading levels thanks to 92 volunteer tutors who were willing to learn new technology so they could help these students.

Janet began tutoring Sherlley in June 2020 as part of our free virtual summer tutoring program. Sherlley was going into 3rd grade and reading at a low 2nd grade level.

Over the course of the school year, Janet and Sherlley continued to connect for weekly tutoring sessions via Zoom. By the end of the school year, Sherlley was reading on grade level. Janet comments, "Since we have been reading together, her confidence has grown. She has become much more talkative about many subjects. While reading a calendar, I asked what her favorite day of the week was. Her answer: Tuesday, because she gets to read with me. That made my heart sing. I think she is proud of herself for the progress she's made."

Janet and Sherlley finally met for a tutoring session in person at the Literacy Coalition, more than a year after they began tutoring together.



While tutoring in a virtual format works, Janet and young Sherlley were thrilled to meet in person during the summer tutoring sessions in 2021.

## 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 seventh year of Building Better Readers. We recruit, train and support community volunteers to tutor children who struggle with reading.

**118 first and second grade students in 9 elementary schools were tutored virtually by 45 volunteer tutors during the 2020-2021 school year.**

**47 volunteers tutored 72 children in first through fourth grade after school, virtually.**

**91% of the students tutored virtually showed gains in their reading levels, even though many of them were not attending school in person**



# Stories and STEM

The 2020-2021 school year brought new challenges to facilities of every kind, but Stories and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) continued to find ways to reach children directly in both afterschool and camp programs.

Most of the programming over the past year took place as live, virtual sessions, using technology to allow for interaction with the children. Books and supplies were packed in special bags for each individual child and delivered to sites in advance. This allowed students to have something to take home after each lesson, and greatly increased the number of physical books in the hands and homes of students.

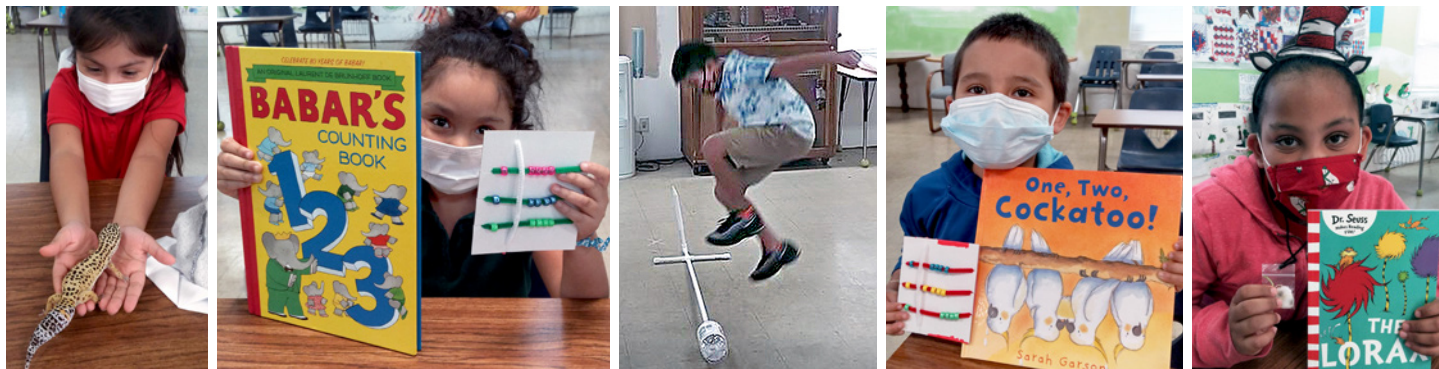
But not all facilities had the technology access and capacity to support a live, virtual program. One such location was the afterschool and camp program at New Hope Charities in Pahokee. To ensure that students were not left out of literacy and STEM support, Stories and STEM staff went on-site for socially-distanced, in-person learning sessions.

"It's been very important because the kids haven't had much interaction with the outside world, and we are way out here in the Glades area – nobody is travelling out here," explained New Hope

Charities' Afterschool Program Coordinator Daniella Santoyo. "To have Stories and STEM come out here is awesome because they are still able to interact and have some kind of normalcy – this is the only program that was normal for them. It was regular to them. It was something they were able to connect with from before."

Santoyo also shared having Stories and STEM visit their site gave the staff inspiration and resources. "It helps [staff] out too when they are planning for summer or the next term, they are able to incorporate what was left behind," she said. "Staff put the books on their shelves and it gives them a jumping board to be able to do their own books and their own activities to go along with it."

The pandemic led to adjustments in the Stories and STEM program that included sending books home with students after every session. "That is a good thing," said Santoyo. "Since the pandemic, parents want their kids to read more. They want them to have less screen time and more actual reading time. It also makes the connection from afterschool to day time to home."



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

**712 K-5 children were enriched by the program throughout Palm Beach County in 213 interactive sessions at 15 sites.**

# Read! Lead! Succeed!

In a typical year, Read! Lead! Succeed! builds reading and social emotional skills in youth as they research and address social issues with youth-driven, collaborative projects. During 2020-2021, when in-person collaborative teamwork was side-lined, social emotional learning through literacy continued. We pivoted to provide experiences that built resiliency in youth across Palm Beach County by creating *Brain Food* Literacy Kits for food distribution lines and *Bounce Back* virtual lessons that focused on staying calm, building emotional strength and spreading kindness. The results were outstanding.

With books such as *Who Moved My Cheese? for Kids* by Spencer Johnson and *Perfectly Messed Up Story* by Patrick McDonnell, children were able to read and discuss their thoughts about life challenges. Children learned about and shared resources to empower each other. Students participated in activities designed to increase strategies for relaxation which included utilizing art and humor to cope with stress.

Stephanie Randall, academic advisor for Orchard View Elementary



*Students enjoyed using slap happy wristbands as they read funny stories and told jokes.*



*Youth learned how to use humor to manage stress.*

School's 21st Century Community Learning program, observed the students as they implemented deep breathing and positive thinking strategies. She appreciated watching as they wrote and told jokes and laughed out loud while reading humorous books. "The students' favorite part of the joke session was that they got to make up their own jokes and share. The students agree that laughing helps you cope with stress and that it makes you feel better when you're sad. 'Why did the M&M go to school? To be a Smarty' was their favorite joke."

The students were able to let go of some of their worries as they learned to create double doodles and how to create art from a simple dot. Nikki Christensen, a 5th grade science teacher at Orchard View, shared, "The students enjoyed the doodle art because it helped them to clear their minds and express their thoughts."

In a year that students and staff needed it most, Read! Lead! Succeed! helped them build resiliency skills and proved that reading is relaxing in a vital way.

## BY THE NUMBERS

Read! Lead! Succeed! offers a social emotional learning curriculum, using high-quality children's literature and literature-based activities. Through virtual visits and literacy supply kits, we taught youth while modeling literacy instruction practices for teachers, camp counselors and afterschool staff.

Summer 2020, we expanded our reach by providing local food distribution lines with 900 at-home literacy kits filled with books, hands-on activity supplies and step-by-step instructions for families to enjoy a break from the prevalent onscreen experience.

*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.*

**55 out-of-school time programs participated**

**194 classes were provided**

**861 children received direct instruction**





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Our Partners

21st Century Community Learning Centers	Coleman Park, City of West Palm Beach
Achievement Centers for Children and Families	C.O. Taylor/Kirklane Elementary Afterschool
Adopt-a-Family of the Palm Beaches	Crosspointe Elementary
Afterschool Connections at Franklin Academy	Delray Pediatrics
The ARC of Palm Beach County	DePorres Place
Believers Academy	Digital VibeZ
Belvedere Elementary & Afterschool	Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary
Benoist Farms Elementary & Afterschool	Drowning Prevention Coalition
Boynton Beach City Library	Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary & Afterschool
Boynton Beach Community High School	Edna Runner Tutorial Center
Boys and Girls Clubs Palm Beach County Summer Program	El Sol
Boys Town South Florida	Executive Women of the Palm Beaches Foundation
Bridges at Belle Glade	Faith Lutheran Afterschool
Bridges at Boynton Beach	Families First of Palm Beach County
Bridges at Highland	Forest Hill Community High School
Bridges at Lake Park	Forest Hill Elementary Afterschool
Bridges at Lake Worth	Forest Park Elementary
Bridges at Lake Worth West	Foundcare
Bridges at Northwood	Frenchman's Creek
Bridges at Pahokee	Gaines Park Community Center, City of West Palm Beach
Bridges at Riviera Beach	Galaxy E3 Elementary & Afterschool
Bridges at West Palm Beach	Gentle Medicine Associates
Brito Medical Center	Gove Elementary
Caridad Center	Greenacres Elementary Afterschool
Center for Family Services of Palm Beach County	The Guatemalan-Maya Center & Summer Camp & Escuelita Maya
Children's Clinic	Hammock Pointe Elementary
Children's Home Society of Florida	Healthy Beginnings Nurses
Children's Physicians	Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Palm Beach County, Inc.
Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County	HomeSafe
City of Greenacres Summer Camp & Afterschool	Hope-Centennial Elementary & Afterschool
City of West Palm Beach	Indian Pines Elementary & Afterschool
Classical Home Education Community (CHEC)	
C.L. Brumback Primary Care Clinics	

J.C. Mitchell Elementary
Jupiter Elementary
Jupiter Pediatric Associates
Kingswood Academy Afterschool, Greenacres
Kingswood Academy Afterschool, Palm Springs
Lake Park Elementary
Lake Worth Community High School
Lake Worth Pediatrics
Lake Worth West Resident Planning Group
Lantana Elementary & Afterschool
Leadership Palm Beach County
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Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County
Lincoln Elementary
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New Hope Charities, Inc., Afterschool Program
Nurse Family Partnership
Opportunity Early Childhood Education & Family Center
Orchard View Elementary & Afterschool
Ounce of Prevention Fund
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Palm Beach County Community Services Department
Palm Beach County Health Department
Palm Beach County Library System
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
Palm Beach County Youth Services Department
Palm Beach Lakes Community High School
Palm Beach Pediatrics
Path to College

Pediatric Associates
Pediatric Center of Belle Glade
Physicians Park Medical Group
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Plumosa School of the Arts & Afterschool
Poinciana Elementary Afterschool
Primary Learning Academy
Prime Time Palm Beach County
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South Olive Elementary Afterschool
South Tech Preparatory Academy
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Take Stock in Children
Tenet Florida Physicians Services
Tiny Tikes Academy
Town of Palm Beach United Way
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SouthTech Preparatory Academy
Stanley Steemer
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Statement of Financial Position

As of June 30, 2020

<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash and Investments	\$3,433,318
Grants and Allocations Receivable	358,941
Pledges Receivable	115,850
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets	18,349
Property and Equipment, Net	2,737,118
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$6,663,576</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Accounts Payable	\$227,284
Accrued Compensation	71,750
Deferred Revenue	14,675
Refundable Advance	240,000
PPP Loan Payable	365,891
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$919,600</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	
Unrestricted	\$5,407,299
Temporarily Restricted	336,677
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$5,743,976</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$6,663,576</b>

Statement of Financial Activities

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2020

<b>REVENUES AND PUBLIC SUPPORT</b>	
Gifts and Grants	\$5,258,191
Special Events	288,649
Investment Income	20,299
Unrealized Gain/(Loss)	(27,718)
Contributions In-Kind	189,462
Program Service Fees	240,483
<b>TOTAL REVENUES AND PUBLIC SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$5,969,366</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Programs	\$5,115,475
Management and General	439,770
Fundraising	356,269
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$5,911,514</b>
Change in Net Assets	\$57,852
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	5,686,124
<b>Net Assets at End of Year</b>	<b>\$5,743,976</b>
<b>Percent Used for Fundraising</b>	<b>6%</b>



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HOW YOU CAN HELP

VOLUNTEER

You can volunteer to tutor an adult or child in need of literacy skills. There are also opportunities to help an adult learn English and/or prepare to take the GED exam. No experience is required as we 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. We have shared over 4,000 of these donated books in the last year with groups in need including teachers, schools and organizations. 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, 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! Lead! Succeed!



Afterschool Tutoring

2020-2021 HIGHLIGHTS



Building Better Readers



AmeriCorps



O'Sheas Pub Book Donation



Glades Family Education



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Loop for Literacy



Check Donations



Reach Out and Read



*Thank you*  
for supporting literacy!



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