2022–2023 HIGHLIGHTS
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 their parents don’t have the literacy skills to qualify for a job with a sustaining wage.

OUR MISSION
Improve the quality of life in our community by promoting and achieving literacy.

THE VISION
That every child and adult in Palm Beach County becomes a reader.

THE NEED IN PALM BEACH COUNTY (2022-2023)
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 55,967 adults, children, youth and families through our programs
We distributed 117,801 books to children, families and organizations

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Charity Navigator is recognized in the top 1% of charities nationwide and has earned 14 consecutive 4-out-of-4 star ratings from Charity Navigator.

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CHamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches
Boca Raton Chamber
I am grateful to lead a wonderful organization made up of amazing individuals full of passion for improving literacy skills throughout our community. We had a great year for our many programs, initiatives, volunteering and fundraising events as we continue to provide critical services throughout our community. Being able to participate in our Read with Me program at Crosspointe Elementary School was perhaps a highlight of the year for me. Seeing over 30 volunteers in action across two kindergarten classes was an incredible experience. Hearing how much our program helps build confidence in those students confirms the success of our volunteers and programs.

Throughout the year, it is awe-inspiring to see the impact we make within our community. Our events help us do this. In February, our Loop for Literacy saw more than 500 participants at Bryant Park and raised $88,000 to help support our programs. Then, in March, we enjoyed a full house at the Kravis Center for our Love of Literacy Luncheon and raised over $250,000. Finally, in April we rounded out our events with a full, 18-team scramble at our Literacy Links Golf Tournament. Now, we need to keep the momentum going into next year and continue growing our reach within the community to new heights. Challenge accepted!

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 about our literacy efforts and the impact we’re making as we helped 55,967 adults, children, youth and families this past year.

The Coalition commemorated the 10th anniversary of the Blume Literacy Center for Education, Training and Outreach this past June. It was an honor to be joined at the celebration by former Coalition CEO Darlene Kostrub, lead capital campaign donors Margaret Blume and Brenda Medore, many board members and campaign supporters. This permanent home for literacy has given us the opportunity to grow and thrive, while expanding our presence as a community resource.

This past year we celebrated the 25th anniversary of Jeanne Siccone, the Coalition’s Director of Children’s Literacy. Jeanne continues to make invaluable contributions to our organization and the community through her knowledge, dedication and expertise.

The Coalition’s 2022-2023 accomplishments are significant, and our success would not have been as momentous 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. Thank you for being a part of the Literacy family and helping us transform lives through literacy.
THE BLUME LITERACY CENTER CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

Literacy Coalition donors, board members, volunteers and staff celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Blume Literacy Center for Education, Training and Outreach on the Brenda and C.P. Medore Campus on June 20, 2023. In the last decade, the Center has allowed the Coalition to enhance its collaboration with partners, increase training opportunities for reading tutors and AmeriCorps members and allowed the staff to expand our services. With the utilization of 19 offices, multipurpose conference rooms, a training room, a library and book distribution center, we are thriving in this permanent home for literacy in Palm Beach County helping us carry out our mission.
THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

"We can’t be us without you"* was the theme for our volunteer appreciation celebration.

The Coalition recognized and thanked our hundreds of volunteers who support our programs, initiatives and events.

Adults in our County are being tutored in basic literacy and English by over 150 volunteers at public libraries, School District Adult Education programs and community-based adult education programs.

More than 200 trained volunteers tutored children in grades 1-4 in classrooms throughout the County and after school virtually or at our Blume Literacy Center, helping these children improve their reading skills.

More than 225 volunteers read to kindergarten classes sharing the joy of reading with these beginning readers and helping them with a book-related activity. Showing these children that reading is fun helps them to enjoy reading and become better readers. Our Board of Directors participated in this reading initiative in addition to their responsibilities providing leadership and governance and helping raise awareness and funds to support our programs addressing the literacy needs in our community.

Volunteers also support our initiatives and programs by assembling literacy kits, hosting book drives, sorting and labeling books for distribution and serving on event and governance committees.

“We are grateful for our volunteers who share their passion, commitment and talents to help us increase our impact in the community to help so many students in need,” says Literacy Coalition CEO Kristin Calder.

*From The Thank You Book by Mo Willems

BY THE NUMBERS

A total of 1,362 volunteers supported the Literacy Coalition’s efforts this year.

To see a complete list of volunteer opportunities, visit LiteracyPBC.org

Students from American Heritage School helped label books.

Elisa Glazer (L) and Travis Foels (R) volunteered in the Read with Me program.

Employees from The Breakers volunteered to sort and label books for our Reach Out and Read program.

Santaluces students with On-The-Job training.

NCCI employees volunteered at LOOP for Literacy.

United Way Day of Action volunteers.
BOOKS, BOOKS & MORE BOOKS!

Thanks to our generous community partners and individuals, **9,093** books were collected or donated through book drives for the Literacy Coalition this year. Our Director of Children’s Literacy, Jeanne Siccone, coordinated the distribution of these books to organizations throughout the County supporting children’s literacy programs and benefiting students who participate in the Coalition’s reading programs.

Alexa Severino presented **414** children’s books to the Coalition that were collected through the Pure Barre Wellington Studio.

Gamma Gamma Sigma Sorority Philo Affiliated member, Jasmine Johnson, with Jeanne, created a display of the **450** books donated through the Sorority’s annual book drive.

Mirasol Country Club Foundation collected and donated **1,100** books to the Coalition.

Service and Social Society members (L to R) Isabella Rosenberg, Erin Ryant and Elleson McCumber, proudly display the books collected through their organization’s book drive.

Members of the Florida Recreation and Park Association Southeast Region (L to R) Monette, Justin, Danielle, Gayle and Chris pictured with the great variety of new children’s books collected at their December holiday event.

Jeanne with Gil Kaminer, an Omni Middle School teacher, who delivered **437** children’s books to the Coalition’s Literacy Center collected from the school’s National Junior Honor Society student members.

Literacy Coalition’s Stories and STEM Program Manager, Callie Sharkey, was thrilled with the Wellington Barnes & Noble children’s holiday book drive donation.

Jeanne with Jill Carr, Director of Education and Community Outreach for the Theatre Lab at Florida Atlantic University, showcase the children’s books collected at a theatre production.

Service and Social Society members (L to R) Isabella Rosenberg, Erin Ryant and Elleson McCumber, proudly display the books collected through their organization’s book drive.
The Literacy Coalition hosted the 15th annual Mayors’ Literacy Initiative Luncheon at the The National Croquet Center in West Palm Beach in September in partnership with The Palm Beach County League of Cities and our sponsor Comcast. The Coalition encouraged the mayors, city officials and guests to help develop a community of readers in each of their municipalities in various ways, including participation in literacy efforts like “Read for the Record” and “Read Together Palm Beach County.”

Our 2022-2023 Literacy AmeriCorps members interacted with the mayors and took their oath of service administered by PBC Volunteer Florida Commissioner Autumn Karlinsky.

The selected book was Nigel and the Moon, by Antwan Eady

The Literacy Coalition, and sponsor PNC Bank, coordinated municipal leaders, businesses and individual volunteers to make a huge impact through Read for the Record: the Coalition distributed 1,200 books to childcare centers and schools and a combined total of 548 municipal and community volunteers participated in reading to 26,625 students at 154 sites. The Coalition worked in partnership with the Cox Science Center and Aquarium to host a focal event with Tania Rogers of WPTV reading to preschool children from Atkins TLC Preschool and the Glades Family Education program. A highlight of the reading campaign is a friendly competition to see which municipality has the most participation. The 2022 winners were the Village of Wellington, the Village of Palm Springs and the Town of Palm Springs.
Thanks to the generous support of fundraisers, sponsors and more than 500 runners, walkers and cyclists, the 13th Annual LOOP for Literacy raised a record $88,000! The event was held on February 11 at Bryant Park in Lake Worth Beach. Thank you to Coalition Board Members Andy Loewenstein and Helena Zacharis for co-chairing the event. Thank you to Top Individual Fundraiser Len Gray and Top Team Fundraiser Holland & Knight.

Men’s 5K Run Results:
• 1st – Max Arthay of Palm Beach Gardens, with a time of 18:27
• 2nd – Angel Gutierrez of Wellington, with a time of 18:34
• 3rd – Cenex Fleurigene of West Palm Beach, with a time of 21:32

Women’s 5K Run Results:
• 1st – Lisa Levin of Gaithersburg, MD, with a time of 21:44
• 2nd – Emily Abbott of Lake Worth, with a time of 23:33
• 3rd – Ulrike Vernachio of Lake Worth, with a time of 24:02

Xavier Lofaso placed first in the Kids 1-Mile Fun Run, and Stephanos Gunes won the Kids 100-Yard Dash.

Thank you to our presenting sponsor Florida Crystals, as well as Domino Sugar, Levenger Foundation, Bill Bone Bike Law, Sugar Growers Cooperative of Florida, LC Tri Shop, Nursing Services of Palm Beach, Holland & Knight, Park Avenue BBQ Grille, the Loewenstein Family, Orange Theory Fitness, The Palm Beach Post, Manatee Lagoon, Gentle Medicine Associates, Inc., Simply Healthcare, NCCI, Cole, Scott & Kissane, P.A., CPG Cares and Barbara & Len Gray.
The Literacy Coalition is celebrating its most successful fundraiser to date. The 32nd annual Love of Literacy Luncheon, presented by Bank of America, raised more than $250,000. Nearly 600 supporters attended the March 9th event to hear New York Times bestselling author Paula McLain share how reading has impacted her life. McLain is best known for her novels The Paris Wife, Circling the Sun and Love and Ruin. The Coalition highlighted program participants including Diana, a Glades Family Education graduate who shared her accomplishments; Ava, an elementary school student and Sherri, her Building Better Readers tutor, who read aloud; and Mercilia, an adult student at the Full Service Center and our Village Readers program in Delray Beach, who read an essay she had written as part of this year’s Adult Essay Recognition initiative, coordinated by the Coalition in partnership with the School District of PBC Adult & Community Education Department.

A full field of golfers teed up for the 7th annual Literacy Links Golf Tournament on April 14, and raised more than $40,000 in funds that will support our programs to provide links to literacy for so many children and adults in our community. The tournament took place at the beautiful Palm Beach Par 3 and included lunch, awards and a silent auction at al Fresco Restaurant. Thank you to our sponsors Brenda Medore and Leanne Adair, Publix Super Markets Charities, The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company, Ed Morse Automotive Group, Northern Trust and an anonymous donor. Special thanks to event chair Nancy Vera and committee members Caleb Bowser, John Campo and Travis Foels.
PACT time allows Giselle and her sons, Livan and Abraham, to grow and learn together.

GLADES FAMILY EDUCATION

For Giselle, a physician in Cuba, leaving her home country and moving to the United States was not an easy decision. However, with her three-year-old twin boys, it was important to her to give them a better life and a better future. She also wanted them to grow up with their grandmother, who had moved to Belle Glade several years prior. Although Giselle had previously studied English in Cuba, when she arrived in the United States, her mom encouraged her to sign up with her children at the Glades Family Education program. Not only would Giselle get a stronger grasp on the English language, but her boys could attend the on-site preschool to build strong early language and literacy skills.

Since beginning in the program, Giselle has been pleased with the family’s progress. She has been able to make friends in her class, and little by little, she is gaining confidence with communicating in English. She also appreciates the parenting and life skills workshops offered on a monthly basis as she navigates parenting in a new country and culture. Best of all, her boys, Livan and Abraham, are thriving. Both have started to speak English, and they are recognizing letters, numbers, shapes and colors. They lacked access to books in their daycare in Cuba, and now their teachers are instilling a love of reading in them that is thrilling for Giselle, an avid reader herself.

Eventually, Giselle dreams of practicing medicine again as a physician, but she knows that it will be a long road. For now, she is content improving her English skills and having the opportunity to learn with her children. When Livan and Abraham start kindergarten, she will look for employment in the medical field, and begin preparing to take the Board Exams in English.

The program served a total of 71 adults and 15 children.

86% 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.

316 books were distributed.
Jesula, and her daughter, Naika, enjoy reading.

Jesula moved to the United States from Haiti with her daughter, Naika, in 2016. Jesula had attended school in Haiti to become a journalist, but with a young daughter, safety was her top priority. Fearful of gangs and violence, she fled to Florida. Although much safer, life in the United States was not easy due to the language barrier. Jesula was able to get a job as a housekeeper at a hotel, but she struggled to understand her supervisor and communicate with hotel guests.

When Naika began school at Village Academy, Jesula learned about the Literacy Coalition’s Village Readers Family Education program that operates at the school. Not only could Jesula improve her English through the evening adult English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes, but through the program, Naika could also receive after-school tutoring and attend a literacy enrichment program in the evening. Jesula and Naika enrolled in the program in September of 2022, and they have both made tremendous gains in their language and literacy skills.

Jesula has advanced to a higher level class and is thrilled with her improved communication skills. She can understand her boss and loves the gained independence of not needing a translator. She credits the program with contributing to Naika’s success in school, too. The twice-weekly tutoring sessions have given Naika a newfound sense of confidence as she reads accurately and with expression. She has become more enthusiastic about reading and learning. She proudly shared that she ended the school year reading on grade level and ready for third grade.

Looking ahead, Jesula eventually wants to get her GED and go to school to become a nurse, but most importantly, she wants Naika and her two younger children, ages one and three, to succeed. Now, thanks to the Village Readers Family Education program, she feels confident in her ability to support them in school and knows that Naika is well on her way to success.

**VILLAGE READERS FAMILY EDUCATION**

**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 to enhance employment opportunities. Their children receive individualized reading instruction in the afternoon and attend an evening children’s program with educational enrichment activities during the hours that their parents attend class. Once a month, parents and their children come together for Parent and Child Together (PACT) time, reinforcing the idea that learning involves the whole family. The program also offers monthly parenting skills workshops for our adult students to learn how they can best support their children.

154 adults and 33 children participated in the evening program.

28 children received afternoon tutoring in reading and comprehension.

89% of the children tutored made significant improvements in reading.

80% of adults tested demonstrated significant learning gains in their English language skills.

423 books were distributed.

Jesula, and her daughter, Naika, enjoy reading.

Literacy AmeriCorps member Michael Canales tutors Naika.
WORKPLACE AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Although Magnolia moved to the U.S. from Colombia 12 years ago, she doesn’t have many opportunities to practice her English language skills. Her husband, her friends and her neighbors primarily speak Spanish. When she found out that the Literacy Coalition’s Workplace and Community Education program was offering English classes in her senior living apartment complex, she was excited to sign up.

The English classes began at Royal Palm Place Apartments in June 2022, organized by Pine Ridge Holistic Living Center (PRHLC), an affiliate of the West Palm Beach Housing Authority. PRHLC director, Silvia Avila, said, “Most of our senior residents are Spanish speakers with no transportation. They requested an opportunity and space close to home to learn English for free with specialized personnel. Pine Ridge and the senior community will always be grateful to the Literacy Coalition for its hard work and commitment to improving community literacy skills.” Her colleague, Minerva Lugo added, “The students have made great strides so far, and we are excited to see the next chapter for each student.”

Magnolia is hoping the next chapter includes becoming a U.S. citizen. When she initially signed up for the class, she did so knowing that speaking English is important for her citizenship application and interview. After several months attending class, Magnolia’s English has improved tremendously. She is so proud to be able to translate for family and friends, and now in addition to the English language classes held weekly, the Literacy Coalition is also providing programming for citizenship exam preparation. Magnolia is determined to earn her citizenship this year, and we can’t wait to celebrate with her.

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.

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

- Chelsea Commons Apartments (ESOL)
- City of West Palm Beach (GED and Workplace-specific needs)
- Faith Farm Ministries (GED)
- Royal Palm Place Apartments – Pine Ridge Holistic Living Center (ESOL)
- SBA Communications (Workplace-specific needs)

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

All 15 students passed their workplace licensure exams.
Camille Pottillo served as a graduation coach in the Literacy AmeriCorps program in 2022-2023. She reflected on her experience and shared remarks at the Coalition’s Annual meeting:

“Before graduating from college, I made a conscious decision to dedicate the next year of my life to giving back to the community before embarking on the next chapter of my career. Fast forward and I was moving to sunny South Florida with no friends, family, or knowledge of what was to come next. Initially uncertain about how I would do, or how this would align with my future aspirations, I quickly realized that the skills I was acquiring and utilizing every day were invaluable. Thanks to the Literacy Coalition staff for playing a part in our individual journeys and successes. From the first day I stepped into the Literacy Coalition, I quickly realized that you all had an unwavering love and passion for making this community a better place.

Assigned to serve as a graduation coach at Johnson Scholars in partnership with Take Stock in Children, I learned not only the teaching skills needed to be a graduation coach, but they nurtured the personal growth of me and my fellow AmeriCorps members. I not only learned how to step out of my comfort zone, but how to view life from a different lens. This year of service taught me to appreciate everything I have in my life. I met individuals from diverse backgrounds, each with their own unique stories and struggles. It was a humbling experience to be welcomed into their lives, to listen to their stories and to provide support in whatever way I could.

I worked with 127 seniors who graduated and will now attend colleges, trade schools and universities all over the country including Stanford, University of Florida, Northwestern, Emory and Florida State.

One student recently sent me a message to affirm my impact. “I wanted to thank you for being my college coach this year. I miss you. You always put a smile on my face and I always got so excited when I heard my name over the intercom calling me to the media center. Thank you for always making me laugh and encouraging me to do my best. I am so happy I had you as my coach!!”

Recruits, trains and supervises members who each contribute 1,700 hours of service in tutoring, mentoring and participating in meaningful community service projects.

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

1,239 at-risk youth were coached, tutored and mentored for academic success.

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

124 children and youth were provided with homework help.
BUILDING BETTER READERS

Now in its ninth year, the Literacy Coalition’s Building Better Readers program has expanded to serve 416 students in 28 schools and after school throughout Palm Beach County. Still grappling with the educational impacts of the pandemic, the schools and children are so grateful for the extra support of the Literacy Coalition’s trained volunteer tutors. Every child in the program is paired one-on-one with a tutor, meeting twice a week in the classroom or once a week after school, for the entire school year. As a result of the additional instruction and perhaps most importantly, the supportive relationship with a caring adult, the children are thriving. Their skills have increased and their confidence is soaring.

At New Horizons Elementary in Wellington, volunteer Sheila worked with three struggling readers who started the year reading below grade level, hesitant and self-conscious in their reading. At year’s end, Sheila shared, “As we got to know each other and spent more one-on-one time together, I could see their skills, self-confidence and pride in accomplishment grow. Through stories about mice, dinosaurs, pet flies, losing teeth and more, they discovered that reading can be fun. At school year’s end all three had turned seven, grown some inches, lost at least one tooth, and were reading at or beyond grade level.”

At Westward Elementary in West Palm Beach, volunteer Bettina shared that one of her second grade students progressed from a kindergarten reading level to reading at grade level in just five months. Bettina says of her tutoring, “It’s the best part of my week.”

Kara, who tutors students in the program on Zoom after school, shared that Kyler made the A/B honor roll for the first time and another student is now proudly reading chapter books. These successes are just a few examples of the impact of the program on children across the County.

BY THE NUMBERS

In Palm Beach County public schools, the percentage of third grade students reading below grade level is now at 52%. Most of these students spent their kindergarten and first grade trying to learn virtually as schools were closed due to the pandemic and these students are now trying to catch up.

Children learn to read in Kindergarten through third grade, and read to learn in grades four and above. The Literacy Coalition has partnered with the School District of Palm Beach County for the past nine years to help remedy this lack of reading skills. Volunteers are recruited, trained and supported to tutor these struggling readers.

In 2022-2023, the Coalition provided tutoring to 328 first and second grade students that were tutored in classrooms at 28 elementary schools by 152 volunteer tutors.

51 volunteers tutored 88 first through fourth grade students after school, both virtually and in-person at the Literacy Coalition.

Of the 416 students tutored in 2022-2023, 78% of them ended the year at least 50% closer to grade level than when they began the year and 30% actually ended the year reading on grade level.
Reach Out and Read prepares young children for school success by partnering with pediatricians who distribute books and encourage families to read together.

The Literacy Coalition distributed **54,461** books at well child checkups by **103** practitioners at **39** clinics.

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

We distributed **31,278** books to **19** different Healthy Beginnings programs through **12** providers.

“Reading is one of my favorite hobbies. I love to read and give books to children. When we opened the new office in Royal Palm, I could not wait to receive books to share. Giving books to patients at their physical exam allows me to develop a bond with the patients and make a good assessment of their motor development. Every time they come, even though it is not for a physical, they are asking for a book.

I encourage parents to read with their children to cultivate a life-long love of reading, especially if they have difficulty talking to improve their language skills and increase their vocabulary. These books are precious to me.”

– Sherley David Gratia, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, SOMA Medical Center in Royal Palm Beach

The Early Literacy Book Distribution program provides children’s books for families receiving services through the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County’s Healthy Beginnings system of early childhood care. During these appointments, the families are provided with developmental toys, activities and books from the Literacy Coalition.

“I love receiving these beautiful books at each visit, especially since it is very difficult to find quality books in Spanish. Having most books be bilingual is also a great perk. Matthew loves to turn the pages, see the pictures, and now that he's older he tries to read it in his own way. I am very grateful to have these books for my baby.”

– Cristina Szyszko, Outreach Educator, HomeSafe Healthy Beginnings

**EARLY LITERACY BOOK DISTRIBUTION**
Our Read! Lead! Succeed! program continues to provide the best in literacy-based experiences, activities and discussions designed to foster social emotional learning and awareness. This year, our series on self-management incorporated different aspects of responsibility, motivation, discipline, and perseverance. Through books, along with physical activities, music, games and discussion, we have been able to reinforce the importance of self-management while simultaneously giving students the necessary tools, strategies and opportunities to practice self-management.

In one lesson, students read *The Pigeon Needs a Bath*, by Mo Willems, to learn about the value of responsibility. In an open-ended discussion, students discussed the responsibilities that they have at home. Students shared about caring for younger siblings, cleaning their rooms, washing dishes, doing laundry, cooking and taking care of their pets.

Kelly Hinde, Afterschool Program Coordinator at Cypress Trails Elementary, commented, “The kids absolutely loved the [Read! Lead! Succeed! program] and they looked forward to it each Friday. It was amazing how you managed to get the attention of both the fifth graders and younger students. Some kids are a little leery of anything with ‘Literacy’ in the title, but you showed them how it could be fun! They even talked with their parents about it.”

**BY THE NUMBERS**

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

- **22** sites participated in the program.
- **218** sessions were provided.
- **973** children received direct instruction.

Youth learn important life skills such as money management and self-regulation.
Students at Galaxy Elementary were excited to be hands-on in every activity and to take home new books.

**BY THE NUMBERS**

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

4,449 books were distributed to children and afterschool sites.

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

273 interactive sessions were held at 17 sites.

Galaxy E3 Elementary School has been a long-time partner with the Stories and STEM program. This past year, all of the children in the Galaxy Afterschool program had the opportunity to participate in Stories and STEM, and we even attended their yearly Family Science Event. Combining books with STEM activities gets students both excited and engaged.

“I’ve seen their interest in literacy and reading increase through this experience,” said Afterschool Site Director Katina Thomas. “They are asking questions – they want to know more. I know they get it when they can tell me about a story or about a particular topic because prior knowledge is not always the case. Many of our students don’t have a home environment where parents take them to the science center or even read with them at night. Your model shows them basic things like how to hold a book, how to read a book. I also think being excited about literacy comes from the experience that they have with Stories and STEM.”

Every session, kids read together and have the opportunity to participate in screen-free, hands-on science. In addition, after each class all the children receive a new book to take home.

The microscopes also got a lot of buzz. There was a dissection they were talking about later, too. Exposure to a vast amount of knowledge is important. Their parents are grateful that they are getting books here and appreciate building a library at home. To me, that’s one of the biggest bonuses because you are putting books in kids’ hands.”

Building a relationship with the children and staff is an integral part of what makes the program successful.

Thomas adds, “My kids know you. They are excited when they know that you’re coming. They appreciate your putting your whole heart into it. The difference in your research and ideas increases the quality that we get from this experience.”
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THE LITERACY LEADERSHIP SOCIETY: $10,000 – $24,999
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TD Charitable Foundation
US Bank

THE LITERACY ADVOCATE SOCIETY: $2,500 – $4,999
Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties
Cozen O’Connor Law Firm
Foley Family Charitable Foundation
Laurie and Phillip Gildan
Greenberg Traurig, P.A.
Holland & Knight, LLP
Hunters Run Country Club
Patricia Knobel
Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A.
Lynn University
Lytal Reiter Smith Ivey & Fronrath
Nason, Yeager, Gerson, Harris & Fumero, P.A.
Nursing Services of Palm Beach
Publix Super Markets Charities
Mary Elizabeth Roth
Sweets Foundation
Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida
Whiting-Turner Contracting Co.

THE AVID READER SOCIETY: $1,000 – $2,499
Anbinder Family Foundation
Anonymous
Anthology, Inc.
Baptist Health South Florida
Jolene and Kyle Boris
Fabiola Brumley
Jane and Iain Calder
Kristin and Glen Calder
City of Boynton Beach
Colburn Family Foundation
Colonial Dames of America, XVII
Leslie Coughlan
CPG Cares, Inc.
Victor Creighton
Dominique and Pierre Deltor
Ann DeMartino
Margaret Donnelle
Lila Drowos
Ed Morse Automotive Group
Eden Charitable Foundation
George Elmore and Marti LaTour
Marilyn Engle
Jones Foster
Friends of the Palm Beach County Public Library
Debra and Paul Ghostine
Tyler Gildan
Judith and Tom Giuffrida
GL Homes
Seran and Thomas Glanfield
Justin Grandic
Gulf Stream School
Sharon and Bob Hill
J. McLaughlin
Stephanie Kahlert
Lynn Kalber and Scott Eyman
Cheryl Karadbil
Jenifer Kelley
King’s Academy
Loewenstein Family
Eileen Lueder
Make Change Fund
Ronit Maman
Virginia and Bill Marx
Leslie Massara
Sally Michel
Carol Anne Halperin Minkin Foundation
Robin Muir
Jennifer Nahoum
Monique Nelligan
Florida Power & Light
Northern Trust
Bernadette O’Grady
Steve Presson
Marni and Morris Propp II
Family Foundation
Ann and Gopal Reddy
Denise Rivas
Barbara Rollhaus
Meg Sheetz
Florence Sherman
Simply Healthcare Plans, Inc.
Martha Smith
Keisha Sowers
Chris and Tom Streit
Syrrus Fund
Susan Taylor
Linda Wartow
Wisteria Foundation
Robin Woodard
WPBF 25
WPTV 5 / Scripps

FRIENDS OF LITERACY:
$500 – $999
Mary Arpe and Michael Gelfand
Aurora and Antonio Arthay
Yvonne Barboni
Sharvell Becton
Sunny and Arthur Bellis
Deborah Bennett
Judy Bergman
Cherrie and Bob Bierley
Vicky Cantelmo
Claire Parsons Riley
Melissa and Matthew Criscuolo
Denva J. May
Michelle and Robert Diffenderfer
Caron Dockerty
Matthew Doyle
First Horizon Foundation
Lynn and Bill Foley
Kathryn Freiburger
Patricia Gillula

Donna Glenn
HCA Foundation
Ann and Les Heilakka
Alma and Jimmie Horne
Jean Irwin
Jewish Communal Fund
Maryanne Jones
JWL Engineering
Virginia Kinsey
Cole Scott & Kissane
Alex Konert
John Langford
Roslyn Leopold
Rachelle and Joseph Lexima
Cecily Lynett
Zelda Mason
Honnie McClear
Laura McMullen
The Merck Foundation
Faith Meyer
Jan Morrison
Diane Mullahy
Pamalee Murphy
Barbara Nagle
Carol O’Neil
Nicole Pasqual
Julie Payne
Sandy Perl

Stephanie and John Pew
Ceil Randell
Kathy and Robert Richards
Susan Ridgley
Razal Robbins
Round Table Club
Roberta Rubin
Deborah and Steve Sandler
Scaps Medical LLC
Jackie Scheiwiller
Orin Shakerdge
Kathleen Slattery
Therese Snyder
SouthTech Academy
Kenneth Spillias
Kelly Starling
Sidney Stubbs
Summit Advertising
Beret Talt
Unique Med Home Health Care, Inc.
Patricia Werhahn
Wild Fork Foods
Joan Williams
Mary Windle
Trudy and Ted Winsberg
Marcie Young
Young Dentistry
Marie and Basil Zaloom

THANK YOU TO OUR LEAD PROGRAM FUNDERS
OUR PARTNERS

211 Palm Beach / Treasure Coast
21st Century Community Learning Centers
Achievement Centers for Children and Families
Acts of Kindness Community Development, Inc.
Adopt-a-Family of the Palm Beaches
Afterschool Connections at Franklin Academy
Allamanda Elementary
The ARC of PBC
Belvedere Elementary
Benoist Farms Elementary
Bethesda Memorial Hospital
Boca Raton Elementary
Boca Raton Medical Center
Boynton Beach City Library
Boynton Beach Community High School
Bridges at Belle Glade
Bridges at Boynton Beach
Bridges at Highland
Bridges at Lake Park
Bridges at Lake Worth
Bridges at Lake Worth West
Bridges at Northwood
Bridges at Pahokee
Bridges at Riviera Beach
Bridges at West Palm Beach
Brito Medical Center of PBC
Chelsea Commons Apartments
Children’s Clinic
Children’s Home Society of Florida
Children’s Physicians
Children’s Services Council of PBC
City of Boynton Beach Parks & Recreation Department
City of Greenacres Fire Rescue
City of West Palm Beach
Chloe Lake Elementary School
C.L. Brumback Primary Care Clinics
Clearwater Research Institute
Clintons Can Help
Community Greening
Community Partners of South FL Congress Middle School
C.O. Taylor/Kirklane 21st Century
Cox Science Center & Aquarium
CROS Ministries
Crosspointe Elementary & Afterschool
Delray Beach Children’s Garden
Delray Pediatrics
DePorr’s Place
Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary
Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary
Edna W. Runner Tutorial Center & Summer Camp
El Sol
Faith Farms Ministries
Faith Lutheran Afterschool
Families First of Palm Beach County
Feeding South Florida
First Steps to Success
Florida Atlantic University Pine Jog Afterschool
Florida Department of Health PBC
Florence Fuller Child Development Centers – East & West
Forest Park Elementary
FoundCare
Freedom Shores Elementary Afterschool
Frenchman’s Creek Country Friends of Okeeheelee Nature Center
Galaxy E3 Elementary & Afterschool
Galaxy E3 Elementary 21st Century
Galaxy Initiative
Gentle Medicine Associates
Good Samaritan Medical Center
Gove Elementary
Greenacres Elementary
21st Century
Grove Park Elementary & Afterschool
The Guatemalan-Maya Center
Gulfstream Goodwill Industries
Transition to Life Academy
Gumbo Limbo Nature Center
Hagen Road Elementary
Hammond Pointe Elementary
Healthy Beginnings Nurses
Healthy Families
Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Palm Beach County
Help Me Grow
Heritage Elementary 21st Century
High Point Academy
HomeSafe
Hope-Centennial Elementary & Afterschool
Indian Pines Elementary
Inwater Research Group
Jerry Thomas Elementary
Jewish Association for Residential Care
J.C. Mitchell Elementary
Johnson Scholars Program
Jupiter Elementary
Jupiter Medical Center
Jupiter Pediatric Associates
K.E.C. Canal Point Elementary
Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful
Kids at Work Learning Center
Kingswood Academy Afterschool, Greenacres
Lakeside Medical Center
Lake Park Elementary
Lake Worth Beach City Library
Lake Worth Community High School
Lake Worth Kiwanis
Lake Worth Pediatrics
Lantana Elementary & Afterschool
Leadership Palm Beach County
Legal Aid Society of PBC
Lincoln Elementary
Loggerhead Marine Life Center
Loving Tender Pediatrics
Loxahatchee Groves Elementary
Mandel Public Library of West Palm Beach
Miracle League of PBC
The Mission Medical Center
My Way Clinics
New Hope Charities, Inc., Afterschool Program
New Horizons Elementary
Nurse Family Partnership
Orchard View Elementary & Afterschool
Pahokee Pediatric Associates
Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management
Palm Beach County Food Bank
Palm Beach County Library System
Palm Beach County Youth Services Department
Palm Beach Lakes Community High School
Palm Beach Pediatrics
Palms West Hospital
Panther Ridge Conservation Center
Path to College
Pediatric Associates
Pediatric Center of Belle Glade
Pediatric Place
Physicians Park Medical Group
Pine Grove Elementary
Plumosa School of the Arts & Afterschool
Poinciana Elementary Afterschool
Primary Learning Center
Prime Time Palm Beach County
Renaissance Charter School, West Palm Beach
Resource Depot
Rolling Green Elementary & Afterschool
Royal Palm Pediatrics
The School District of PBC
The School District of PBC – Department of Adult Education
Santaluces Community High School
SBA Communications
Seminole Trails Elementary
21st Century
Solid Waste Authority of PBC
Soma Medical Centers
The Soup Kitchen
South Grade Elementary
South Olive Elementary Afterschool
South Tech Academy
South Tech Prep Academy
Special Olympics Florida PBC
Spirit of Giving Network
Starlight Cove Elementary & Afterschool
St. Mary’s Medical Center
SuraMed Health Centers
Take Stock in Children
Tenet Florida Physicians Services
Town of Palm Beach United Way
United Way of Palm Beach County
Village Academy
Volunteer Florida
Wellington Regional Medical Center
West Boca Medical Center
West Palm Beach Housing Authority
Westward Elementary
Women’s Circle
Women’s Health Initiative
Yesteryear Village
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS OF JUNE 30, 2022

ASSETS
Cash and Investments $3,889,717
Grants and Allocations Receivable 153,250
Pledges Receivable 148,500
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets 38,202
Property and Equipment, Net 2,742,729

TOTAL ASSETS $6,972,398

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS
Liabilities
Accounts Payable $30,072
Accrued Compensation 65,441
Deferred Revenue 8,000

TOTAL LIABILITIES $103,513

Net Assets
Unrestricted $5,913,058
Temporarily Restricted 955,827

Total Net Assets $6,868,885

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS $6,972,398

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

REVENUES AND PUBLIC SUPPORT
Gifts and Grants $3,767,091
Special Events 499,976
Investment Income 56,988
Unrealized Gain/(Loss) (369,095)
Contributions In-Kind 262,486
Program Service Fees 174,513

TOTAL REVENUES AND PUBLIC SUPPORT $4,391,958

EXPENSES
Programs $3,460,599
Management and General 278,174
Fundraising/Development 521,872

TOTAL EXPENSES $4,260,645

Change in Net Assets $131,352
Net Assets at Beginning of Year 6,737,533

NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR $6,868,885

PERCENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES 6.5%
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</th>
<th>DIRECTORS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PRESIDENT</strong></td>
<td>Aurora Arthay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Criscuolo</td>
<td>Palm Beach County Library System</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cozen O'Connor</td>
<td>Caleb T. Bowser</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Northern Trust</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>VICE PRESIDENTS</strong></td>
<td>Pierre Deltor, M.D.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regine Bataille, M.D.</td>
<td>Scaps Medical Center</td>
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<td>Gentle Medicine Associates, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Duke</td>
<td>Maggie Dickenson*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Akerman, LLP</td>
<td>U.S. Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SECRETARY</strong></td>
<td>Debra Ghostine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sharon Hill</td>
<td>Community Volunteer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Palm Beach County Library</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(retired)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TREASURER</strong></td>
<td>Elisa Glazer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicole Rocco</td>
<td>NCCI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attorney at Law</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MEMBERS AT LARGE</strong></td>
<td>Grace Halabi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bernadette O’Grady*</td>
<td>First Horizon</td>
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<td>WPTV 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy Vera</td>
<td>Alma Horne</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wolters Kluwer</td>
<td>Martin Luther King, Jr. Coordinating Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT</strong></td>
<td>Andrew Loewenstein</td>
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<tr>
<td>Len Gray*</td>
<td>Holland &amp; Knight LLP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mercer (retired)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PARLIAMENTARIAN</strong></td>
<td>Robert Mitchell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laurie L. Gildan*</td>
<td>Philips</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greenberg Traurig, P.A.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Past President*
LITERACY COALITION TEAM

BLUME LITERACY CENTER
Kristin Calder
Chief Executive Officer
Megan Bob
Director of Education and Family Literacy
Michele Burka
Director of Finance and Operations
Molly Felmet
Reach Out and Read Coordinator
Lorie Graham
Literacy AmeriCorps Director
Jeanne Heavilin
Building Better Readers Manager
Connie Hoke
Operations & Fiscal Coordinator
Tim Jean
Read! Lead! Succeed! Manager
John Landry-Odell
Development Director
Dawn Larkin
Communications Coordinator
Lauren Pedic
Inventory Specialist and Book Courier
Callie Sharkey
Stories and STEM Manager
Jeanne Siccone
Director of Children’s Literacy

GLADES FAMILY EDUCATION
Ana Alvarez
Coordinator
Laura Calderon
Coordinator
Alejandro Garzon
Manager
Elidia Guzman
Assistant Coordinator

VILLAGE READERS FAMILY EDUCATION
Amy Fuller
Manager
Gail Griffis
Instructor
Siena Mayers
Assistant Manager
Cynthia Michelet
Children’s Program Assistant
Cybile Moise
Coordinator
Shon Saddler
Instructor
Ben Schottland
Instructor

WORKPLACE AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION
Gerri Malcolm
Instructor
Kevin Smith
Instructor

LITERACY AMERICORPS MEMBERS
Michael Canales
Laura Courson
Sam Darwiche
Rochelle Davis
Zach El Ghatit
Valerie Hatcher
Alexandra Hempfling
Sarah Krop
Alex Meyer
Melissa Neider
Camille Pottilio
Mia Romano
Frank Sauro
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. The Literacy Coalition received 9,093 books this year through book drives and donations from our generous community partners and individuals. Books are always needed for programs serving children up through the fifth grade.

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

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

IMPACT FUTURE GENERATIONS
Consider an endowment gift to the Literacy Coalition that will allow us to sustain our impact in the community for future generations. Include the Literacy Coalition in your retirement plans, will, living trust or related planned giving methods allowing you to extend your legacy of literacy to future generations. Planned gifts – large and small – are a lasting way to help us continue the success we know today in helping families be successful in school and in life.

READ TO A CHILD
Read together everyday. Point out print everywhere. Do not limit yourself to reading books with your child. Street signs and cereal boxes count too. Tell your child how much you enjoy reading with them. This attention lets them know they are special and loved.

ATTEND AN EVENT
There are various events to attend throughout the year that support our literacy programs and initiatives. Events include LOOP for Literacy, the Love of Literacy Luncheon, and the Literacy Links Golf Tournament.

PROMOTE LITERACY
You can support the mission of the Literacy Coalition and become an advocate for literacy. Share our posts and information on your social media accounts. Follow LiteracyPBC today!
Celebrating 10 Years

THE BLUME LITERACY CENTER
FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING AND OUTREACH
on the Brenda & C.P. Medore Campus
3651 Quantum Blvd., Boynton Beach, FL 33426
(561) 279-9103 | LITERACYPBC.ORG