

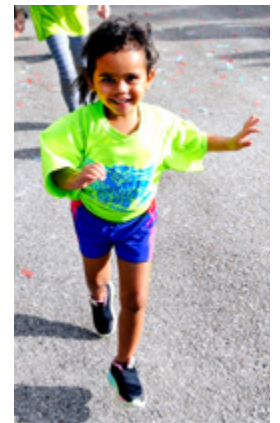


# ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

*Leading Through Reading*



## 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

Literacy AmeriCorps members provided **23,579** hours of service – teaching, tutoring and mentoring adults, teens and children

We distributed **117,801** books to children, families and organizations


 The Literacy Coalition 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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## LITERACY BOARD LEADERSHIP



**MATT CRISCUOLO,**  
board president, participating  
in Read with Me.

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.



*Matt and his wife, Melissa, with author Paula McLain at the 2023 Love of Literacy Luncheon.*

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!

## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



**KRISTIN CALDER**

Thank you to the Literacy Coalition board of directors, staff, Literacy AmeriCorps members, volunteers, donors and partners who work tirelessly and passionately to improve the quality of life in our community by promoting and achieving literacy.

In the pages of this report, you will learn 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.



*Nancy Vera and Matt Criscuolo with Kristin at the 10 Year Celebration of the Blume Literacy Center.*



*Kristin with former CEO, Darlene Kostrub, and Jeanne Siccone at the Blume Literacy Center 10 Year Celebration.*



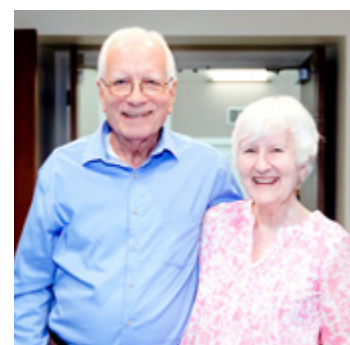
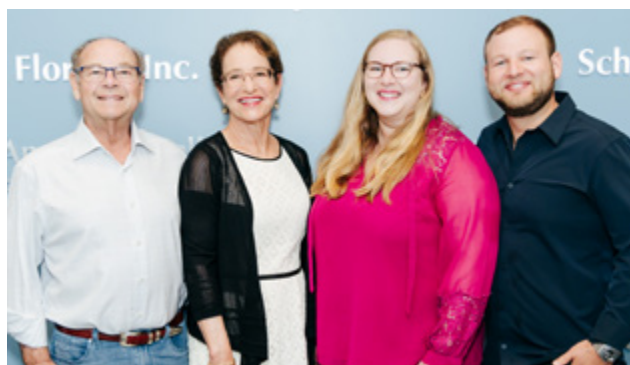
# THE BLUME LITERACY CENTER CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

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, multi-purpose 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.



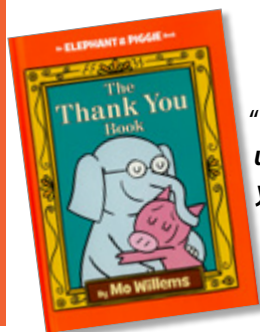
*Celebrating 10 Years*

A MILESTONE CELEBRATION





# 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



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



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



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



## 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](http://LiteracyPBC.org)



Students from American Heritage School helped label books.



NCCI employees volunteered at LOOP for Literacy.



Santaluces students with On-The-Job training



United Way Day of Action volunteers



# BOOKS, BOOKS & MORE BOOKS!

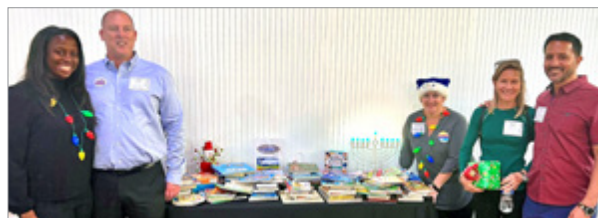
Thanks to our generous community partners and individuals, **9,093** books were collected or donated through book drives for the Literacy Coalition this year. Our Director of Children's Literacy, Jeanne Siccone, coordinated the distribution of these books to organizations throughout the County supporting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



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.



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



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.



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.



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



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



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.





# MAYORS' LITERACY INITIATIVE LUNCHEON



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



COMCAST  
NBCUNIVERSAL

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.

## READ FOR THE RECORD



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.



# LOOP FOR LITERACY



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:

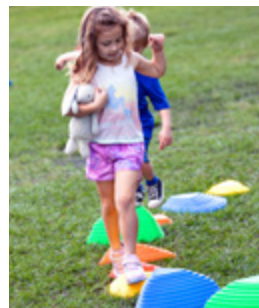
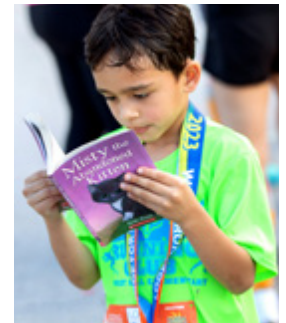
- 1st – Max Arthay of Palm Beach Gardens, with a time of 18:27
- 2nd – Angel Gutierrez of Wellington, with a time of 18:34
- 3rd – Cenex Fleurigene of West Palm Beach, with a time of 21:32

## 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.





# LOVE OF LITERACY LUNCHEON



**BANK OF AMERICA** 

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.

Elisa Glazer and Telsula C. Morgan served as co-chairs. **Platinum Sponsors** were Brenda Medore and Paul & Nancy Zarcadoolas; **Gold Sponsors** were Akerman, LLP, Gentle Medicine Associates, Inc., Greenberg Traurig, LLP, Karen Rogers, Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A., *The Palm Beach Post* and Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart & Shipley, P.A.; **Silver Sponsors** were Cozen O'Connor P.C., First Horizon Foundation, Len & Barbara Gray, Simone & Peter Bonutti and Patricia & David Knobel, Levenger Foundation, Lynn University, Lytal, Reiter, Smith, Ivey & Fronrath, Nason, Yeager, Gerson, Harris & Fumero, P.A., NCCI, Bernadette O'Grady & WPTV 5 and US Bank.





# LITERACY LINKS GOLF TOURNAMENT

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.



*The 2023 winning foursome, L to R: Mike Froloff, Goose Henderson, Gary Coman and Bob Richards.*



*The 2023 runner-up team, L to R: Victor Creighton, Iain Calder and Glen Calder.*







*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.

## BY THE NUMBERS

The Glades Family Education program serves adults and children from the Belle Glade, Pahokee and South Bay areas. The four main components of the program include adult literacy, children's literacy, weekly Parent and Child Together (PACT) activities and monthly parenting skills workshops. Adults learn English while improving their reading and writing skills. A preschool class operates for the young children of our adult students, preparing them to succeed in kindergarten. Parents and their preschool children attend PACT time once a week. PACT is a component that allows parents and children to interact and learn together as a family. Staff members help parents learn how to support their child's learning by interacting together through meaningful activities. The program brings in outside presenters throughout the year to offer parenting skills workshops for our adult students to learn how they can best support their children.

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.



## 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.*

## VILLAGE READERS FAMILY EDUCATION

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 afterschool 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.

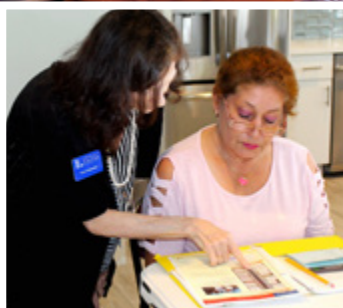
Jesula has advanced to a higher level class and is thrilled with her improved communication skills. She can understand her boss and loves the gained independence of not needing a translator. She credits the program with contributing to Naika's success in school, too. The twice-weekly tutoring sessions 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.





Gerri Malcolm teaching students at Royal Palm Place Apartments.



Gerri instructing Magnolia

## 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.



BY THE **NUMBERS**

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.



*AmeriCorps member Sam Darwiche tutoring a student at Adopt-a-Family of the Palm Beaches.*



*Camille, center, with the 2022-23 AmeriCorps members, serving at Panther Ridge Conservation Center*

## LITERACY **AMERICORPS**



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!!"





## 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.



## 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.

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.



*Dr. Gratia giving a patient a book she can take with her to enjoy and read at home.*



## REACH OUT AND READ

"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**

## EARLY LITERACY BOOK DISTRIBUTION

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**





*The Read! Lead! Succeed! program regularly integrates music into the lessons*

## READ! LEAD! SUCCEED!

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.*



## 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.



Students at Galaxy Elementary were excited to be hands-on in every activity and to take home new books.

## STORIES AND STEM

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."



From microscopes to owl pellet dissections, all youth in the Stories and Stem program were able to share their discoveries.



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## 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%



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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. 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!







## 2022-2023 HIGHLIGHTS







*Celebrating 10 Years*



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