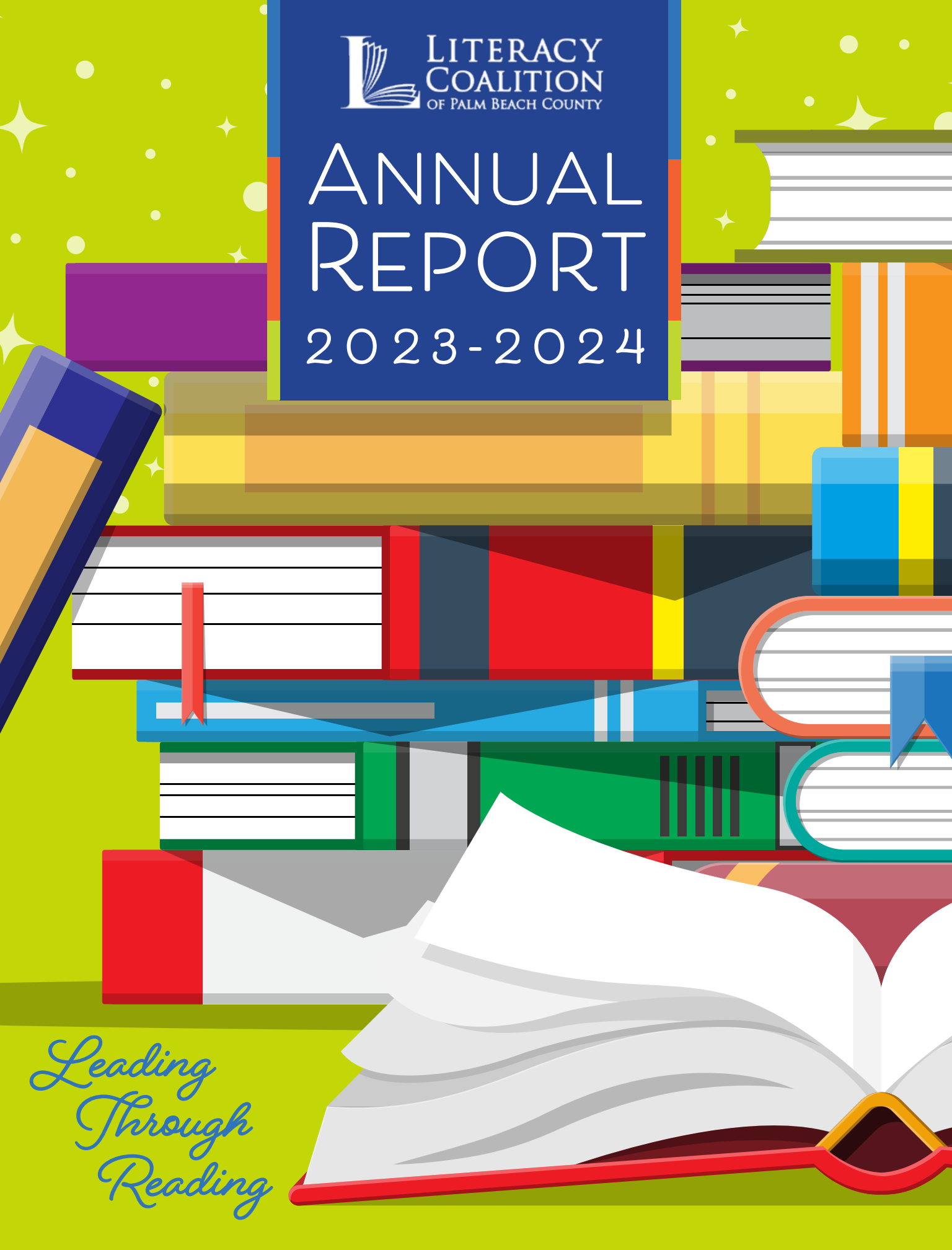




ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



*Leading
Through
Reading*



2023-2024 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 (2023-2024)

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.

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.

We served **55,716** adults, children, youth and families through our programs

Literacy AmeriCorps members provided **29,196** hours of service – teaching, tutoring and mentoring adults, teens and children

We distributed **117,903** books to children, families and organizations



The Literacy Coalition is recognized in the top 1% of charities nationwide and has earned 15 consecutive 4-out-of-4 star ratings from Charity Navigator.



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LITERACY BOARD LEADERSHIP



MATT CRISCUOLO,
board president, addressing the
guests at the Love of Literacy
Luncheon on April 11.

What a privilege it was to serve another year as President for the Literacy Coalition. Throughout the last year, we enjoyed steady growth in our many programs, initiatives, volunteering and fundraising events as we continue to provide critical services throughout our community. In doing so, we continue our mission to improve the quality of life in our community by promoting and achieving literacy. It was especially exciting to see our Building Better Readers program grow in volunteers as well as in schools and students served. We continue to expand this wonderful program to provide the critical tutoring support needed to help bridge the gap for our elementary school students.

Our expanding Read with Me! program served as my highlight of the year again. Seeing and hearing firsthand from our volunteers at Hagen Road Elementary School further

confirmed the effectiveness and impact of our programs. The students were so excited to be there and didn't want us to leave! A close second for me was the opportunity to meet and listen to Geraldine Brooks at our Love of Literacy Luncheon. Her witty and insightful remarks were both captivating and inspiring.

I'm so excited to see our organization's continued growth and impactful reach throughout our community under the new leadership of Dr. Regine Bataille. She has served on the Coalition board for a decade and as a pediatrician, has partnered with the Coalition 23 years to provide the Reach Out and Read Program at her practice, Gentle Medicine Associated, Inc.



Incoming Board President, Regine Bataille, M.D. at the Coalition's annual meeting with Matt Criscuolo.

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



KRISTIN CALDER

Thank you to the Literacy Coalition board, staff, Literacy AmeriCorps members, volunteers, donors and partners who work 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 55,716 adults, children, youth and families this past year.

As we worked to achieve literacy, we also celebrated and promoted literacy. We commemorated the 30th anniversary of the AmeriCorps program and helped educate members and the community about the origins of this impactful service opportunity. Our partnership with the

School District's Adult & Community Education Department was celebrated at the 25th anniversary of the Adult Learner Essay Recognition initiative. We honored our many volunteers at an appreciation reception and recognized board member Sharon Hill as the Coalition's Woman Volunteer of the Year (WVOY) nominee at the Junior League of Boca Raton's event. Our efforts were featured in the "Hope for Early Education" presentation at the Community Foundation's Founders Luncheon. Ken Spillias, founding board member of the Coalition, spoke at the Coalition's Annual Meeting, reflecting on the organization's growth and accomplishments as we approach the 35th anniversary of the Coalition in November 2024.

The Coalition's 2023-2024 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.



Board member, Ken Spillias with Kristin at the Annual Meeting.



WVOY event (L-R): Janel Williams, Nancy Vera, Kristin, Bernadette O'Grady, Sharon Hill, Margaret Blume, Maggie Dickenson, Jeanne Siccone and Lindsay Reinhart.

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND OUTREACH

Opened in 2013, the Literacy Coalition's Blume Literacy Center for Education, Training and Outreach on the Brenda and C.P. Medore Campus allows the Coalition to enhance its collaboration with partners and increase training opportunities for reading tutors, AmeriCorps members and the community. 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, which helps us carry out our mission. We remain grateful for Margaret Blume's generosity combined with that of Brenda Medore and hundreds of community and business leaders who helped make this dream a reality.



READING ALOUD WITH MARGARET BLUME

The Literacy Coalition is a proponent of reading aloud. Recognizing that reading aloud to a child, even 15 minutes a day, results in children developing an improved vocabulary, increasing their comprehension and strengthening their listening skills. The Coalition is a member of the national "Read Aloud 15 Minutes" campaign, which shares studies that show children who are read aloud to by parents get a head start in language and literacy skills and go to school

better prepared. It also promotes emerging literacy and language development and supports the relationship between child and parent. The Coalition incorporates reading aloud in each of our programs.

Margaret Blume is a Building Better Readers tutor, helping students improve their reading skills. She is also an author of a children's book, "Can I Meet the Moai?". She read her book to students in February at the Blume Literacy Center. Her

story shares the history of the giant moai statues located on Rapa Nui (Easter Island) in Chile. Margaret's interest in the moai also resulted in her donation of "Moai at Mounts", a sculptural installation at Mounts Botanical Garden in West Palm Beach. The replica statues, as mentioned in her book, serve as a link to ancient history, art and culture. The children enjoyed the read aloud presentation and taking home a signed copy of the book.

HONORING AN INSPIRING VOLUNTEER: MARTHA SMITH

The Literacy Coalition unveiled the **Martha K. Smith** Children's Tutoring Room in March at the Blume Literacy Center. Martha, her husband, Steve, and family attended the dedication of the Room. The Coalition is grateful for a thoughtful and generous gift given to the Coalition in honor of Martha's milestone birthday. She has been a tutor in the Building Better Readers program since 2018 and has tutored 18 students at three schools including Forest Park Elementary, Plumosa School of the Arts and Crosspointe Elementary. Martha has tutored for more than 233 hours, participated in 467 sessions and provided 135 books to students through the Building Better Readers program. She also enthusiastically volunteers with the Coalition's Read with Me! program.



THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS



“It made a difference to that one” was the theme for our volunteer appreciation celebration. The “starfish story” is about a boy walking along the beach and throwing starfish one at a time back into the ocean after a storm. An old man approaches the boy and questions that there are starfish along every mile of the beach and notes that his efforts will not really help. The boy picks up a starfish and throws it back into the ocean. “It made a difference to that one”. The story shows that like the boy, our volunteers can change the trajectory of a life by teaching even one child or one adult to learn to read.

The Coalition’s volunteers help to accomplish our mission from teaching students how to read, to introducing students to the joy of reading aloud for fun.

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.

Last year we were grateful to have many volunteers including:

- 238 trained volunteers tutoring students through Building Better Readers
- 405 volunteers reading to kindergarten classes in Read with Me!
- 150 volunteers tutoring adults in basic literacy and English skills at libraries, the School District Adult Education programs and community-based programs

“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,” Literacy Coalition CEO Kristin Calder said.

BY THE NUMBERS

A total of **1,375** volunteers supported the Literacy Coalition’s efforts this year.

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



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



A volunteer reading with students in our Read with Me! program.



The Coalition’s Megan Bob and Kristin Calder with volunteers Martha Smith, Debbie Friedman and Debbie DeHoog.



American Heritage students volunteered.



Volunteers from CHG Healthcare.



Volunteers from Weatherby Healthcare labeled books for our Reach Out and Read program.



Volunteers at LOOP for Literacy cheered on participants in the 5K event.



BOOKS, BOOKS & MORE BOOKS!

This year, our generous community partners and individuals donated or collected through book drives, **12,105** books for the Literacy Coalition. Jeanne Siccone, our Director of Children's Literacy, coordinated the distribution of these books to organizations throughout the County that provide children's literacy programs and to the students who participate in the Coalition's reading programs.



Coalition staff (L-R) Anna Martinez and Molly Felmet load up the Mirasol Foundation book donation into the Literacy van from with assistance from Mirasol members.



Jovie Johnson, with her mom Orlaina Kelsey Johnson, hosted a book drive.



Staff and students with William T. Dwyer High School's Book Club and the Florida Future Educators of America educators donated 773 books collected for the Coalition.



Christian Greenwood of The Greene School hosted a book drive.



Jeanne Siccone with books donated to the Coalition by GL Homes.



Mary Wheeler and Thompson Auguste presented a book donation from Paul's Place Afterschool program in Delray Beach to staff member Jeanne Siccone.



(L-R) Student Zahara Carmi hosted a book drive to benefit our programs.



Wellington Bay Senior Living Community residents and staff display the new children's books donated from their community's book drive.



Monstapha Hilare (C) from Bank of America surprised Coalition CEO Kristin Calder (L) and Jeanne Siccone (R) with a book donation from the employee book drive.



Allison Calvin with children's books from Unity School in Delray Beach.



(L-R) Coalition Building Better Readers Manager, Jeanne Heavilin with Lindsay Hesler from Seacrest Services with the books collected from the company's holiday book drive.

MAYORS' LITERACY INITIATIVE LUNCHEON



The Literacy Coalition hosted the 16th annual Mayors' Literacy Initiative Luncheon at the West Palm Beach Marriott 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 "Read for the Record". Our 2023-2024 Literacy AmeriCorps members interacted with the mayors and took their oath of service administered by League of Cities President and City of Riviera Beach Councilwoman, Dr. Julia Botel. We also celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Literacy AmeriCorps program.



The selected book was *With Lots of Love*, by Jenny Torres Sanchez



READ FOR THE RECORD



The Literacy Coalition, and sponsor PNC Grow Up Great, coordinated municipal leaders, businesses and individual volunteers to make a huge impact through Read for the Record: the Coalition distributed 1,100 books to childcare centers and schools and a combined total of 646 municipal and community volunteers participated in reading to 26,966 students at 176 sites. Thank you to our celebrity reader, Tania Rogers of WPTV 5, for 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 2023 winners were the Village of Wellington, the Village of Palm Springs and the Town of Lantana.

LOOP FOR LITERACY



Thanks to the generous support of fundraisers, sponsors and nearly 600 runners, walkers and cyclists, the 14th annual LOOP for Literacy raised over \$80,000! The event was held on February 10 at Bryant Park in Lake Worth Beach. Thank you to Coalition Board Members Andy Loewenstein and Lauren Stuhmer 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 18:15
- 2nd – David Plotkin of Boca Raton, with a time of 19:27
- 3rd – Oren Griffith, Jr. of Lake Worth Beach, with a time of 20:32
- 1st Over 50– Allan Nosworthy of Lake Worth, with a time of 20:41

Women's 5K Run Results:

- 1st – Maura Short of Palm Beach Gardens, with a time of 19:44
- 2nd – Emily Abbott of Lake Worth, with a time of 23:59
- 3rd – Janine Virano of Jupiter, with a time of 25:43
- 1st Over 50– Lotta Collard of Delray Beach, with a time of 26:11

Samuel Soto, Jr. placed first in the **Kids 1-Mile Fun Run**, and Asher Palmer 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 Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida, LC Tri Shop, Nursing Services of Palm Beach, Loewenstein Family, NCCI, Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart & Shipley, Cozen O'Connor, Gentle Medicine Associates, Inc., SCAPS Medical, LLC, Palm Beach Plastic Surgery Institute, Orangetheory Fitness of Boynton Beach, Manatee Lagoon, Park Avenue BBQ Grille and *The Palm Beach Post*.



LOOP Co-Chairs Andy Loewenstein and Lauren Stuhmer



LOVE OF LITERACY LUNCHEON



BANK OF AMERICA 

The Literacy Coalition is celebrating its most successful fundraiser to date. The 33rd annual Love of Literacy Luncheon, presented by Bank of America, raised \$300,000. More than 600 supporters attended the April 11th event to hear Pulitzer Prize winner, International and *New York Times* bestselling author Geraldine Brooks. The Australian-born author shared her journey from journalist to novelist. She is known for her impeccably researched historical novels *Horse*, *March*, *People of the Book* and *Caleb's Crossing*.

The luncheon, held at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, was co-chaired by Telsula C. Morgan and Lindsay M. Reinhart. The Luncheon Committee members included Dr. Regine Bataille, M.D., Maggie Dickenson, Debra Ghostine, Len Gray, Grace Halabi, Stephanie Kahlert, Bernadette O'Grady, Carol Rose, Kenneth Spillias, Kelly Starling, Crystal Torres, Nancy Vera and Janel Williams.

Platinum Sponsors were Brenda Medore, David K. and Pamela P. Reyes; **Diamond Sponsors** were Tim and Nancy Haviland; Nan Johnson and Robin Muir; Kosinski Family Foundation and the Robinson Family Fund **Gold Sponsors** were Shawn M. Donnelley and Christopher M. Kelly, Gentle Medicine Associates, Inc., GL Homes, Greenberg Traurig, P.A., Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A., *The Palm Beach Post*, Karen Rogers, SCAPS Medical, LLC, and Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart & Shipley, P.A.; **Silver Sponsors** were Akerman, LLP, Cozen O'Connor, First Horizon Foundation, Barbara & Len Gray, Levenger Foundation, Stephanie Kahlert, Lynn University, Lytal Reiter Smith Ivey & Fronrath, Nason, Yeager, Gerson, Harris & Fumero, P.A., Bernadette O'Grady/WPTV 5, The Lynch Family & Plastridge, and U.S. Bank.



LITERACY LINKS GOLF TOURNAMENT

A full field of golfers teed up for the 8th annual Literacy Links Golf Tournament on April 26, and raised \$50,000 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, an anonymous donor, Lennar, Publix Super Markets Charities, *The Palm Beach Post*, Akerman LLP, Allstate – David Beaumont, Atherton Galardi Mullen & Reeder LLC, Cozen O'Connor, and Jones Foster. Special thanks to event chair Nancy Vera and committee members Caleb Bowser, John Campo and Travis Foels.



The 2024 winning foursome, L to R: Travis Foels, John Campo, Tim Roy, and Pablo Beltran.



The 2024 runner-up team, L to R: Alexander Creighton, Victor Creighton, Peter Gary and Glen Calder.





PACT time allows Marith and her sons, Aaron and Abraham, to grow and learn together.

GLADES FAMILY EDUCATION

The comprehensive nature of our Glades Family Education program, in which the Literacy Coalition provides services for both parents and children, engaging multiple generations in learning together, is fundamental to the success of the program and the achievements of the program participants. Marith most certainly agrees. As the oldest of five siblings, she moved to Belle Glade from Mexico at 18-years-old. She had only finished elementary education and began working in the fields planting cabbage. In 2012, her mother enrolled at Glades Family Education with Marith's youngest sister, who was 4-years-old at the time, recognizing that she needed to get her daughter into a quality preschool program while being able to improve her own English language skills.

Fast forward and Marith and her husband were looking for a preschool for their older son, Aaron, who was 3-years-old. Marith's mother convinced her that it was the perfect opportunity for her to finally get an education. Having seen her mother's English improve and seeing the success of her younger sister, Marith was

excited to enroll with Aaron in Glades Family Education. She knew as soon as her younger son, Abraham, turned 3, she wanted him to attend with her, too. It was not long before her sister, Teresa, attended with her son, Benjamin.

The whole family is thriving. Aaron graduated from Glades Family Education in 2022 and has excelled in elementary school. He has received Honor Roll each trimester, as well as other academic recognition. He is excited for his younger brother, Abraham, to follow in his footsteps. Abraham graduated from Glades Family Education in May and is proud to show his kindergarten readiness skills.

Although both of her children have graduated from the program, Marith continues to attend English classes. After starting the program in the most foundational level class, she has moved up two class levels. Her goal is to be a paraprofessional at an elementary school. With her dedication and the support from our Glades teachers, Marith will continue to succeed.

BY THE NUMBERS

The Glades Family Education program serves adults and children from the Belle Glade, Pahokee, and South Bay area. The four main components of the program include adult literacy, children's literacy, weekly PACT (Parent and Child Together) 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 Parent and Child Together (PACT) time once a week, allowing parents and children to interact and learn together as a family. Staff members also conduct monthly home visits, showing parents how they can extend learning into the home. The program brings in outside presenters to offer parenting skills workshops for our adult students to learn how they can best support their children.

The program served **100** adults and **19** children.

84.6% 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.

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

The program served **165** adults and **43** children who participated in the evening program.

28 children received afternoon tutoring in reading and comprehension.

76% of the children tutored made significant improvements in reading.

82% of adults tested demonstrated significant learning gains in their English language skills.

251 books were distributed.



Judith, and her daughter, Franchesca, enjoy reading and learning together.

VILLAGE READERS FAMILY EDUCATION

Judith moved to the U.S. from Haiti in 2013 with her three children and found an entry level position, knowing she needed an income to support her family. Working in housekeeping for a hotel was hard, physical work, but she didn't have strong enough English skills to secure a higher role. In 2016, Judith had another child, Franchesca. When Franchesca entered second grade at Village Academy, Judith learned about the Literacy Coalition's Village Readers Family Education program. She was excited about the opportunity to attend free evening adult English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes. Even better, through the program, Franchesca could also receive afterschool tutoring and attend an evening literacy enrichment program.

Since enrolling in the program in August of 2022, Judith and Franchesca have both made measurable gains in their language and literacy skills. Franchesca, who really struggled in her academics

when she started in our program, has blossomed this year, going from a nonreader to reading nearly on grade level. Last year, Franchesca did everything in her power to distract her tutor and avoid reading. Now, she can decode all the challenging words in the books they read. She can self-correct her mistakes using multiple strategies. She is comprehending and even enjoying the books they read. Her mom is thrilled that the "homework struggle" has subsided, and when Franchesca needs help, Judith is proud to be able to assist. In addition to being able to help Franchesca with school work, Judith is proud of the promotion she received at work due to her increased language skills. Franchesca is proud of Mom's improvement, too. She told her teacher, "My mom learned how to speak English! She used to always say, 'I'm love you,' and now she says, 'I love you.'" Judith and Franchesca continue to learn and together.



Employees at Hunters Run Country Club attend Workplace classes.



WORKPLACE AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

With a multicultural staff and employees with a native language other than English, Hunters Run Country Club in Boynton Beach wanted to provide employees with the opportunity to expand their vocabulary and language skills while increasing their confidence and ability to communicate with fellow employees, managers and members.

The Literacy Coalition offered classes for employees in the housekeeping, maintenance and food & beverage departments. Pavel, a maintenance employee from Cuba, participated in the beginning level class and shared, "The classes let me understand basic

things about the language and gave me more confidence in speaking. I like that I can ask questions, so I continue to improve." Two sisters from Mexico, Ingrid and Ilse, participated in the advanced level class. They are grateful to learn and engage with the English language. Ingrid said, "The classes helped me to improve and develop better skills in my job and personal life." Ilse appreciated learning common expressions and idioms that she hears regularly from club members.

The Director of Human Resources said, "We are excited with the results of this pilot program and cannot wait to continue this partnership."

ADULT LEARNER RECOGNITION



(L-R) Brian Heisler of the SDPBC Adult and Community Education Department, Carlos Mahecha of CBS 12 and CEO Kristin Calder.

Journalist Carlos Mahecha emceed the recognition event, which was attended by teachers, students and administrators of Adult Education programs. Selected students read their essays to the audience.

The Coalition and the School District's Adult & Community Education Department hosted the 25th year of the Adult Learner Essay Initiative on November 16 to celebrate the thousands of adult students in the county. Adult students wrote essays with the choice of topic: "My Bravest Moment", "The Best Advice I've Received" or "Original Poetry". Community volunteers read the essays and offered feedback to the students.

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 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.

110 adults students participated in classes at **8** sites including:

- City of Greenacres
- City of West Palm Beach
- Eastern Metal Supply
- Faith Farm Ministries
- Frenchman's Creek Country Club
- Hunters Run Country Club
- Royal Palm Place Apartments – Pine Ridge Holistic Living Center

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

BY THE NUMBERS

900 adult students submitted an essay and **250** adult students attended the recognition reception.

The selected essay readers represented the Adult Education programs at Boca Raton Community High, Boca Raton Community Middle, Palm Springs Community Middle, Boynton Beach Community High, North Tech Education Center and Olympic Heights Community High.

BY THE NUMBERS



AmeriCorps
Florida

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

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

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

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

“*Literacy AmeriCorps had a profound impact on my life, and I will forever cherish my time with this program.*”
– Mia Romano



Literacy AmeriCorps member Mia tutoring a student to improve their reading.



(L-R) AmeriCorps leaders Chris Thompson and Megan Wiston, CEO Kristin Calder, Palm Beach County Commissioner Greg Weiss and Margaret Blume celebrate the Proclamation declaring March 10-17, 2024 as Literacy AmeriCorps week.

LITERACY AMERICORPS

Mia Romano served in the Literacy AmeriCorps program for two years. She reflected on her service experience.

“During my first year, I served as a Graduation Coach at Boynton Beach Community High School, where I provided academic guidance to junior and senior students to keep them on track for graduation. In my second year, I served as a Children’s Literacy Tutor at Northmore Elementary School, where I supported elementary students reading below grade level through daily tutoring sessions. I also served as a College and Career Readiness Coach with Scholar Career Coaching, where I assisted high school students in achieving their college and career goals.

Through my various roles, I was able to empower and guide students

toward academic success and personal growth and motivate them to reach their goals. I am grateful to have been able to dedicate two years of my life to serving others. I recommend this program to everyone – even if it does not exactly align with your background.”

She shared one success, “I saw Anthony transform from a disruptive student who did not want to do his work to a student who was excited to meet with me each day and work on his reading. I knew he was intelligent and just needed guidance in focusing on his work and not letting others distract or upset him. At the end of the year, I was notified that Anthony’s test scores revealed he was reading on grade level. He also made the Principal’s Honor Roll. He made my year even more memorable.”



The 2023-2024 Literacy AmeriCorps member at their graduation.



BUILDING BETTER READERS

The Literacy Coalition, in partnership with the School District of Palm Beach County, created the Building Better Readers program in 2013 to help students accomplish grade level reading. The program expanded to serve 510 students from first through fourth grade in 33 schools and after school locations.

Building Better Readers is proving the power of consistent, one-on-one tutoring as it allows children to receive individualized instruction while they develop a bond with a positive adult role model who gets to know them, cares about them, and gives them opportunities to succeed.

At Citrus Cove Elementary, volunteer Joyce worked with two struggling readers in second grade. Brielle and Raelyn both started the year well below grade-level proficiency. Joyce developed a warm and fun relationship with both and loved her time spent reading to them. They focused on reading with meaning and fluency, and Joyce noticed a significant increase in their sight

word recognition. At the end of the year, Joyce was thrilled when the classroom teacher shared that both girls scored on grade-level at the year-end statewide assessment. As the principal described it, "the greatest achievement!"

Penny, a volunteer tutor at Forest Park Elementary, also had a similar experience. She heard from the teacher about Neria, a second-grade student. "Neria scored at a 3.2 grade level equivalency on her state test. Penny really helped Neria and it paid off in a big way!" Neria started the year at intervention level, advanced to watch level, and made it to grade level. Neria's teacher attributed the success to Penny's time, kindness and compassion.

Each of our 285 trained volunteer tutors has success stories to share. From increased reading levels to increased confidence and motivation, the Literacy Coalition is grateful for the dedication and commitment of our volunteers.

BY THE NUMBERS

In Palm Beach County, 46% of third grade public school students are reading below grade level. Children learn to read in kindergarten through third grade and read to learn in grades four and above.

McKinsey & Company, a well-respected management consulting firm has shared a proven catalyst for accelerated learning is one-on-one support for students. Broader research on tutoring finds that it has the greatest impact on reading abilities in the early years."

The program has trained community volunteers who provide one-on-one reading tutoring for two or three children for at least one-hour each week over the school year.

The Coalition's **188** trained volunteers provided tutoring to **418** first and second grade students in classrooms at **32** elementary schools.

50 volunteers tutored **92** first through fourth grade students after school, both virtually and in-person at the Blume Literacy Center.

Of the **510** students tutored, **73%** of them met the goal to be at least **50%** closer to grade level than when they began the year and **25%** ended the year reading on grade level.

BY THE NUMBERS



For 25 years the Literacy Coalition has provided the Reach Out and Read national, evidence-based program that incorporates books into pediatric care allowing clinicians to give families a new book at well-child visits from birth to five years old. The clinicians are able to use the book to assess the child's development, talk about the importance of reading, show families how to enjoy books together, and encourage early positive family interactions.

The program served **105** practitioners at **40** clinics. The Literacy Coalition distributed **50,184** books at well-child checkups.

BY THE NUMBERS

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

We distributed **39,434** books to **19** different Healthy Beginnings programs through **11** providers.

Every baby born in a Palm Beach County hospital, receives a book to take home to start their home library.



Dr. Regine Bataille of Gentle Medicine Associates, Inc. giving a young patient a book.

REACH OUT AND READ

Literacy Coalition Board President and Boynton Beach pediatrician Dr. Regine Bataille has been working with the Reach Out and Read program since 2001. "As a pediatrician, it's been very rewarding to give books to children. Many families in our community rely on this book distribution to build their children's libraries at home. I love to share the importance of reading to children. I enjoy building relationships

with children and families. I encourage parents to continue to read to children because it helps with bonding, increases their children's emotional intelligence and their chances to learn more to receive a better education. We show parents how to engage their children with the books, so they continue to work with their child's reading skills at home. We also teach parents to recognize early literacy milestones and how to help their children reach them."



Dr. Marcia Malcolm of Delray Pediatrics and a young patient with a book.

EARLY LITERACY BOOK DISTRIBUTION

"We are very appreciative of the Early Literacy Book Distribution program. It allows the Counseling for Parents and Young Children program, the Prenatal Plus Mental Health Program as well as the Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) at Center for Family Services (CFS) to provide our children, teenagers, and parents with great reading materials. Through this incredible partnership, we are able to provide a variety of books that pertain to social emotional learning and mental health, so that our participating families may further their journey of growing, learning, and improving their mental health. The books allow for wonderful bonding time between children and their caregivers while exploring the literary world. We also are able to provide



books for adult caregivers, helping sustain them in caring for themselves so they can be the best possible support they can be for their children."

– Todd L'Herrou, CEO at Center for Family Services of PBC, Inc.



The Read! Lead! Succeed! program regularly integrates art into the lessons.

READ! LEAD! SUCCEED!

Art extensions were introduced this year and used to enhance the learning experience. Through creative art, books, games and discussions with peers, students were given insight into confidence, loving themselves, and exhibiting kindness for others. The program seeks to help students develop enhanced resiliency, communication, leadership, emotional management and decision-making skills.

One of the lessons teaches the meaning of positive affirmations and how one's mindset can affect life day-to-day and long-term. Students chose affirmations, then framed

them in picture frames they painted. This lesson includes reading the books *I Think, I Am!* Teaching

Kids the Power of Affirmations by Louise Hay/Kristina Tracy and *I Am Thinking My Life* by Allysun Atwater.

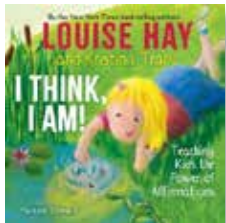
As a group, the students discussed their strengths and weaknesses and how to create their own affirmations to practice on good and bad days. The program also teaches techniques

and skills to handle tough emotions such as sadness or stress, including an activity for students to decorate their own donut-shaped stress balls.

Linda McKinon, Recreation Specialist, Carolyn Sims Center, "This Literacy Coalition program has really impacted our campers. Each book had a message and taught them things they'll need to progress and be successful in life."

"Our daughter looked forward to seeing Ms. Lauren each week. It was her favorite part of summer camp. The books and activities she brought home were fun and engaging and they continue to keep our daughter's interest. We love the Literacy Coalition!"

– *Molly McGahee, the mother of Banyan Creek Elementary School student Maddie McGahee*



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.

175 sessions were provided at **16** sites.

880 children were enriched by the program.

1,153 books were distributed to children and afterschool sites.



Kindness for self and others are an important lesson taught by the program.

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.

185 sessions were provided at **23** sites.

1,161 children were enriched by the program.

8,823 books were distributed to children and afterschool sites.



Students learn about gemstone by hands-on identification lessons.



Children get to crack open their own geodes and discover what is inside.



Creating an erupting volcano is always a favorite STEM activity!

STORIES AND STEM

"Stories and STEM creates a connection between books and hands-on activities. This connection between literacy and real life is the reason that the children in our center get so excited about new books and the opportunity to read them," said Evelyn Lawrence, Faith Lutheran School's Afterschool Director.

"Stories and STEM has taught me to incorporate literacy into activities that I choose for the children as well. I find the activities to be more engaging when I can relate a book to them."

From designing zipline racers to cracking geodes, to studying volcanoes, the youth love exploring.

The children not only enjoy the program's activities, but the books are a favorite part and have opened kids like Frank up to new series such as *Squish* by Matthew and Jennifer Holm. The main character is an amoeba who goes through many challenges the kids can relate to like being part of a team or learning about plants and other organisms in the pond – even parasites!



"My favorite book was the *MARS* book because you can choose your own adventure!" said Anthoni, who is headed for middle school.

“I liked that the volcano kept going higher and higher and got all over us,”

said Mason, who was thrilled to take his safety glasses home so he could keep experimenting with his little brother Casen.

One of the most inspired children is Hailey, who has been enjoying Stories and STEM since 2019. "I feel happy, excited, and creative because the experiments make something up in my head that I can do at home," she said. Her favorite activity this year was breaking apart geodes and then looking at them along with minerals like salt and even fossils under a microscope.



Stories and STEM was nominated for Prime Time Palm Beach County's Presenting Excellence in Expanded Learning Award for the second year in a row.

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- Achievement Centers for
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- Adopt-a-Family of the
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- American Association of
Caregiving Youth
- The ARC of PBC
- Banyan Creek Elementary
- Belvedere Elementary
- Benoist Farms Elementary
- Bethesda Memorial Hospital
- Blue Lake Elementary
- Boca Housing Pearl City CATS
- Boca Raton Elementary
- Boca Raton Medical Center
- Boynton Beach City Library
- Boynton Beach Community
High School
- Boynton Beach Parks and
Recreation Department
- 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
- Center for Family Services
- Center for Child Counseling
- Children's Clinic
- Children's Home Society of Florida
- Children's Physicians
- Children's Services Council of PBC
- Citrus Cove Elementary
- City of Boynton Beach Parks &
Recreation Department
- City of Greenacres Community &
Recreation Services Department
- City of West Palm Beach
- Chloe Lake Elementary School
- C.L. Brumback Primary Care Clinics
- Clinics Can Help
- Community Health Center
- Community Partners of South FL
- Congress Middle School
- C.O. Taylor/Kirklane 21st Century
- CROS Ministries
- Crosspointe Elementary &
Afterschool
- Crystal Lake Elementary Afterschool
- Cypress Trails Elementary
Afterschool
- Delray Beach Children's Garden
- Delray Pediatrics
- DePorres Place
- Diamond View Elementary
Afterschool
- Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune
Elementary
- Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary
& Afterschool
- Eastern Metal Supply Company
- Edna W. Runner Tutorial Center &
Summer Camp
- El Sol
- Epic Kids Learning Academy
- 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 Community Health Center
- Florida Department of Health PBC
- For the Children Summer Camp
- Forest Hill Elementary Afterschool
- Forest Hill High School
- Forest Park Elementary
- FoundCare
- Franklin Academy, Boynton Beach
- Freedom Shores Elementary
Afterschool
- Frenchman's Creek Country Club
- Friends of Okeehetee
Nature Center
- Galaxy E3 Elementary &
Afterschool
- Galaxy E3 Elementary 21st Century
- Gardens School of Technology Arts
Summer Camp
- Glades Initiative
- Gentle Medicine Associates
- Good Samaritan Medical Center
- Gove Elementary
- Greenacres Elementary
21st Century
- Grove Park Elementary &
Afterschool
- The Guatemalan-Maya Center
Summer Camp
- Hagen Road Elementary
- Hammock Pointe Elementary
- Healthy Beginnings Nurses
- Healthy Families
- Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies
Coalition of Palm Beach County
- Help Me Grow
- Heritage Elementary 21st Century
- Highland Elementary 21st Century
- HomeSafe
- Hope-Centennial Elementary &
Afterschool
- Hunters Run Country Club
- Indian Pines Elementary
- Inwater Research Group
- Jerry Thomas Elementary
- Jewish Family Services of PBC
- J.C. Mitchell Elementary
- Johnson Scholars Program
- Jupiter Elementary
- Jupiter Medical Center
- Jupiter Pediatric Associates
- K.E.C. Canal Point Elementary
- Kingswood Academy Afterschool,
Greenacres
- Lakeside Medical Center
- Lake Park Elementary
- Lake Worth Community
High School
- Lake Worth Little Free Libraries
- Lake Worth Pediatrics
- Lantana Elementary & Afterschool
- Legal Aid Society of PBC
- Lincoln Elementary
- Loving Tender Pediatrics
- Loxahatchee Groves Elementary
- Mandel Public Library of
West Palm Beach
- Milagro Center
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- Palm Beach Pediatrics
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Afterschool
- Poinciana Elementary Afterschool
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- Renaissance Charter School,
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Afterschool
- Roosevelt Elementary
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- The School District of PBC
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- Santaluces Community High School
- Scholar Career Coaching
- Solid Waste Authority of PBC
- Soma Medical Centers
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- South Grade Elementary
- Special Olympics Florida PBC
- Spirit of Giving Network
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- St. Mary's Medical Center
- SuraMed Health Centers
- Take Stock in Children
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- West Boca Medical Center
- West Palm Beach Housing Authority
- Westward Elementary
- Whispering Pines Elementary
- Women's Circle
- Women's Health Initiative
- Yesteryear Village
- Youthland Christian Academy

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS OF JUNE 30, 2023

ASSETS

Cash and Investments	\$4,275,590
Grants and Allocations Receivable	191,389
Pledges Receivable	164,450
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets	65,075
Property and Equipment, Net	2,750,080
Operating Right-of-Use Lease Assets, Net	118,605

TOTAL ASSETS

\$7,565,189

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$40,722
Accrued Compensation	110,653
Operating Lease Obligations	120,242

TOTAL LIABILITIES

\$271,617

Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$6,080,583
Restricted	1,212,989

Total Net Assets

\$7,293,572

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

\$7,565,189

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

REVENUES AND PUBLIC SUPPORT

Gifts and Grants	\$3,305,850
Special Events	391,388
Investment Income	84,522
Unrealized Gain/(Loss)	140,863
Contributions In-Kind	218,312
Program Service Fees	185,792

TOTAL REVENUES AND PUBLIC SUPPORT

\$4,326,727

EXPENSES

Programs	\$3,112,653
Management and General	318,690
Fundraising/Development	470,674

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$3,902,017

(Gain)/Loss on Donated Assets

\$23

Change in Net Assets

\$424,687

Net Assets at Beginning of Year

6,868,885

NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR

\$7,293,572

PERCENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

8.17%

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Assistant Coordinator



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 **12,105** 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.



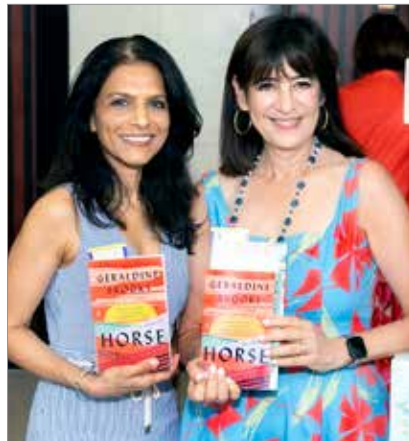
PROMOTE LITERACY

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!





2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS





Leading Through Reading



THE BLUME LITERACY CENTER

FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING AND OUTREACH

on the Brenda & C.P. Medore Campus

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