books for kids

ANNUAL REPORT 2018 - 2019
MISSION

Books for Kids promotes literacy among preschool-aged children in under-resourced communities. We create libraries and implement literacy programs in order to help children develop the critical early literacy and social-emotional skills they need to be successful in kindergarten and beyond.

VISION

We imagine a nation where every child from birth to Kindergarten is surrounded by books, has an adult who reads with them every day, and has access to high-quality early education that provides a foundation for a lifelong love of reading and learning.
A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dearest Bookworms,

Please accept my gratitude on behalf of the entire Books for Kids team for the amazing support you’ve shown us this year. Working in tandem with supporters, families, and educators, our literacy and library programs are flourishing. We’re deepening our engagement with families and school communities. Because of people like you, we’re setting the standard for literacy foundations set in early childhood.

As we chart our course forward, we are mindful, always, of our vision statement: We envision a nation where every child from birth through kindergarten is surrounded by books, has adults who read with them every day, and has access to a high-quality education that sets the foundation for a lifelong love of reading and learning. Our vision is, of course, predicated on the belief that all children deserve access to books so they can flourish in school and beyond. This is the very core of our mission. It’s where Books for Kids fits as part of a continuum of care for our nation’s children as they grow. But what strikes me about it now at the time of writing is the intergenerational element of this vision. Its fulfillment depends upon today’s adults to nurture and scaffold the growth of tomorrow’s adults. And with the phrase “lifelong love of reading and learning,” it calls upon tomorrow’s adults to do the same. This vision insists that we are all in this together and responsible for one another.

The foundations we set this year have prepared us for incredible action in the year ahead. We are poised to serve more children than ever before, and we’re working hard to ensure we reach the children who face the most imposing barriers to accessing books and literacy resources (resources which are a given for their more affluent peers). Children experiencing poverty and homelessness during early childhood bear the brunt of many systemic injustices, and we intend to make it clear to those children and their families that we see them. That we believe not only in their future opportunities and potential, but in the possibility too of creating a better present. Books and libraries can do that. They are transformative and transporting, and their accessibility is a requirement if a society wishes to be both joyful and just.

If you’ll indulge me for a moment, I have a request for you. Think back to when you fell in love with reading for the very first time. What was the book that did it? What did it open up inside of you? Consider sharing it with a child in your life. This moment will be part of your legacy: passing knowledge, wisdom, and, ultimately, love to the next generation. How incredible that all of this could be bound together in a book, gifted from one person to another. From one generation to another.

Thank you for being part of our legacy as we work toward our vision: that no child in this nation know a life, or a world, without the joy and power of books.

In Solidarity,

Robin Adelson
Executive Director, Books for Kids
OUR VALUES

These are the values we practice during Story Time in our libraries, and they are the values that guide us as an organization:

Come on in!
Am I being inclusive and creating a space where all are welcome?

Listen First.
Am I really hearing the other person?

Ask Questions.
Am I being curious and open to learning?

Respect Your Neighbors.
Am I considering the needs of others as well as my own?

Choose Your Own Story.
Am I being true to myself and owning my agency?
OUR IMPACT

92% of Directors say their Books for Kids Library helps prepare their students for kindergarten.

99% of Teachers say their Books for Kids Library is important to their students’ early literacy development.

92% of Teachers say Books For Kids increases the amount of time their students spend reading books.

“The Books for Kids library in my child’s school encourages him to read more and learn more. It gives my child the ability to learn new and bigger words and to think outside the box.”

- Parent, Las Vegas
OUR LIBRARIES...

Books for Kids libraries are investments in children and their communities. They encourage learning and promote literacy by breaking down financial and geographic barriers that prevent too many children from reading. Our libraries meet children and families where they are within preschools, community centers, and family homeless shelters and host diverse collections that provide both mirrors and windows into the world.

AND LIBRARY SPECIALISTS

Our Library Specialists work directly with children, educators, and families to build a culture of reading within communities. They host our literacy programming such as Story Time, book lending, and family engagement.
**PRESCHOOLS — NATIONAL**

- ABCD Action For Bridgeport Community Development — Bridgeport, CT
- ABCD Action For Boston Community Development Geneva Ave Head Start — (Dorchester) Boston, MA*
- Booker T. Washington Child Development Center — Phoenix, AZ
- Carole Robertson Center For Learning, North Lawndale — Chicago, IL
- Catholic Charities Day Care Center — New Haven, CT
- Cottonwood Head Start — Memphis, TN
- Diversified Community Services, Western — Philadelphia, PA
- Education Station Learning Center — Irving, TX
- Edward C. Mazique Parent Child Center, Inc — Washington, DC
- Goodwater Child Development Center — Goodwater, AL*
- Hanley Head Start — Memphis, TN
- Horizons for Homeless Children — Boston, MA*
- Kai Ming Head Start, North Beach Center — San Francisco, CA
- Lorenzi Park Early Learning — Las Vegas, NV*
- Lucia Rivera Early Learning Center — Los Angeles, CA*
- Placita de Ninos Preschool — Los Angeles, CA*
- Reach Out Center — Las Vegas, NV
- Southwind Elementary School — Memphis, TN*
- Spring Valley Learning Center — Las Vegas, NV*
- V. Robinson Head Start Center — Alexander City, AL*
- West Adams Alpha Center — Los Angeles, CA*

**PRESCHOOLS — NEW YORK**

- Addie Mae Collins Community Services — New York, NY
- Bishop Sexton Head Start — Brooklyn, NY*
- Concerned Parents of Jamaica Early Learning Center — Jamaica, NY
- Cooper Park Early Childhood Education Center — Brooklyn, NY
- Cypress Hills Child Care Corporation — Brooklyn, NY*
- Dewitt Head Start — New York, NY
- Friends of Crown Heights Educational Centers, Inc. — Brooklyn, NY*
- Goddard Riverside Day Care Center — New York, NY*
- Grand Street Settlement Day Care Center — New York, NY*
- Gwendolyn B. Bland Early Learning Center — Bronx, NY
- Hudson Guild Children's Center — New York, NY*
- Lutheran Social Services Early Life Program — New York, NY*
- Marcy Early Childhood Education Center — Brooklyn, NY*
- Morningside Early Childhood Education Center — New York, NY*
- Mother Hale Early Childhood Education Center — New York, NY*
- Northern Manhattan Head Start — New York, NY*
- UFBCO Child Development Center — New York, NY*
- Virginia Day Early Childhood Education Center — New York, NY*
- Yonkers Children's Place — Yonkers, NY

**COMMUNITY & FAMILY JUSTICE CENTERS**

- Boys & Girls Club of Greater Washington- FBR Branch — Washington, DC
- Boys & Girls Club of Greenwich — Greenwich, CT
- Brooklyn Family Justice Center (Mayor’s Office to Combat Domestic and Gender-Based Violence) — Brooklyn, NY
- Lincoln Park Community Center — Rockville, MD
- Nyack Children’s Center — Nyack, NY

**FAMILY SHELTERS**

- Solid Ground — Seattle, WA

*denotes a library with Library Specialist programming
2018-2019 AT A GLANCE

GALA

On April 19th, 2019, we celebrated strides in early literacy at our Annual Spring Gala at Edison Ballroom. The event raised over $337,476.

A special thank you to our lead sponsors: Konica Minolta, Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP, Hurst Family Foundation, Mesdag Family Foundation, and David Matlin!

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

In order to create and support a culture of reading, our Library Specialists hold and attend family engagement events throughout the year. We regularly join schools for new parent orientations to help families get to know their library, and we hold literacy activity events like bookmaking and family Story Time to encourage and facilitate shared reading.

HOME LIBRARIES

We gave out over 25,000 brand new books through the Build a Home Library program which helps children and families build their collections. Here are just some of the titles our students received: Elephant and Piggie: I Will Surprise My Friend; Lola Reads To Leo; Ish; Brown Bear & Friends Little Bear Library Gift Set; Splat the Cat And The Duck With No Quack; LEGO City: Heroes!
One of my students refuses to miss school on Wednesdays because she loves library time.

- Teacher, New York City

7,700+ children & families served

6,800+ hours of literacy programs

30,000+ books added to libraries
THANK YOU TO OUR 2018-2019 DONORS

Our donors provide critical literacy support to the children, caregivers, and educators we serve through our library and literacy programs nationwide. We could not have accomplished the highlights of this past year without their generous patronage. Books for Kids is a 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Tax ID: 13-3539811

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$107,690 Individual
$96,200 Foundation
$103,498 In Kind
$341,678 Fundraising events

$837,635 TOTAL EXPENSES

$671,707 Programs*
$57,798 Administration
$108,130 Fundraising

*More than 80% of our 2018-2019 budget went directly toward our libraries and programs. We expect this number to grow even higher in the coming year.
2018-2019 was a year of transition for Books for Kids. We made strategic investments in our libraries and in our Library Specialist programming, resulting in a higher percentage of income and higher dollar amount overall going directly towards programs than the prior year. These program investments, alongside much-needed investments in our administrative and fundraising systems, account for our expenditures exceeding revenue. We anticipate the groundwork laid this year to result in growth in 2019-2020.