

# COMMUNITY IMPACT • 2020-21



Promoting Literacy, Creating Potential



**80,000**  
Books to Children



**1500**  
Children & Families  
Served Each Week



**5800**  
Volunteer  
Hours Served



**250**  
Community  
Partners



**780**  
Sites  
Visited

*Read with a child 20 minutes a day!*



# DEAR FRIENDS.



**"To learn to read is to light a fire."  
-- Victor Hugo**

To watch a child select a book and light up like a spark; to see them holding it close, dive in and explore, experience, learn, and grow; this is what we do for over **1,500 children and youth each week**. We bring the joy and promise of books and reading to all our regions' children.

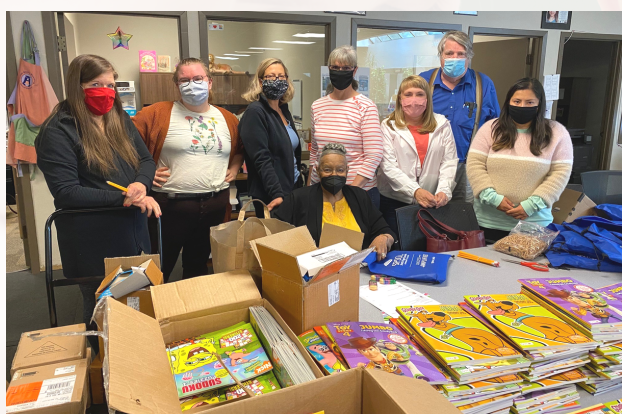
We partner with parents, schools, and organizations to help their children and youth become strong readers and develop a love of reading. Why? **Reading enables a child to succeed in school, learn new things, understand different perspectives, and go places they have never gone before.**

Many of the low-income children, youth, and families we serve encounter multiple barriers, yet access to books is key: **"The mere presence of books in the home profoundly impacts a child's academic achievement,"** (Jim Lindsay, Access to Books).

As we move into winter, the cozy season, it fills my heart with joy to know that we are getting over 1,500 books into the hands and hearts of the children and families in our region who need them most. Thank you for understanding and supporting the power of literacy and the spark of reading! Because of you, bedrooms and bookshelves, bags and backpacks have wonderful books. **Together we are bringing the JOY and PROMISE of books and reading to all South Sound children.**

**Happy reading adventures!**

Jennifer Williamson-Forster  
Executive Director





# OUR PROGRAMS



## Books for Kids: supplies free books to children & families



- **Literacy Book Van** - visits low-income housing units, schools, afterschool programs, community events and rural areas to promote reading by distributing 20,000+ free books and literacy materials.
- **Books for the Break** - partners with schools and food banks to deliver 10,000+ books to homeless and low-income children.
- **Literacy Bookshelves** - stocks 30,000+ books on bookshelves at agencies serving low-income clients so children can take a free book home to read.
- **Bag O' Books** - packs individual book orders totaling 12,000+ books for families in Thurston and Mason counties, ordered online and picked up at our office.

## Family Engagement: educates families about the importance of reading



- **Family Education** - visits parenting groups, support groups, workshops and literacy nights to provide books and discuss reading, literacy, and brain development.
- **Books for Babies** - gives 2,000 new board books and literacy information to families leaving the hospital with newborns.
- **Born to Read** - partners with medical providers to give board books and information to low-income families at their baby's 6-month checkup.

## Reading Engagement: engages children in reading and books



- **Read to Me** - shares story time visits and 3000+ free books with children ages 3-5 at Head Start and other childcare facilities monthly.
- **Book Clubs and Book Talks** - partners with programs that serve low-income children and youth to host book clubs and book talks.
- **Reading Maps** - shares fun reading maps with children and families during school breaks to keep children engaged.





**Bringing  
the Joy and  
Promise  
of Books  
and Reading  
to all South  
Sound children  
since 2001**



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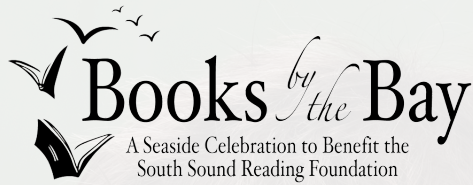
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Zonta of South Puget Sound

# THANK YOU!



# SPONSORS



## SSRF Programs



### Books for Kids

Bean, Gentry, Wheeler, Peternell, PLLC

**OlyFed.**

### Book Van



**WSECU**

### Books for the Break

**WSECU**

Andrew J. Kapust, DDS -  
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### Read to Me

Washington 529 College  
Savings Plans

Heritage Bank

### Born to Read

NOVA Middle School



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### Books for Babies

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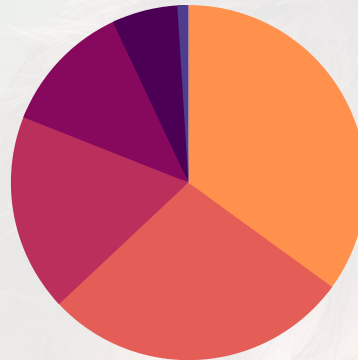
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## Staff

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*Executive Director*
- **Sarah Gage, Program Director**
- **Ben Jurkovich, Book Program Coordinator**
- **Jae Townsend, 2021 Summer Book Program Coordinator**
- **Abby Huennekens, 2021 Summer Intern**

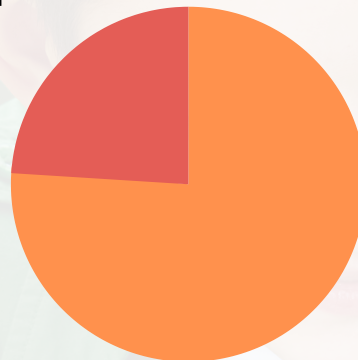
## 2020-21 Financials

### Income



- Books In-Kind (35%)
- Events (28%)
- Grants (18%)
- Contributions (12%)
- Contracts (6%)
- Interest (1%)

### Expense



- Books and Programs (76%)
- General Administration and Fundraising (24%)

## Contact Us

### South Sound Reading Foundation

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Lacey, WA 98516

Physical address:

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Olympia, WA 98506



Main Office: 360-412-4499  
Program Director: 360-412-4411 x 35002



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