

COMMUNITY IMPACT 2021-2022

Promoting Literacy, Creating Potential



82,265

BOOKS IN THE HANDS OF TO CHILDREN



1436

CHILDREN SERVED
EACH WEEK



3030

VOLUNTEER
HOURS SERVED



14,468

BOOKS STOCKED IN
LITERACY BOOKSHELVES



260

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



780

SITES VISITED

40,095

BOOKS DELIVERED
BY THE BOOK VAN

READ WITH A CHILD 20 MINUTES A DAY!

DEAR FRIENDS,

When you were a kid do you remember the excitement of opening a book and discovering what's inside? The places they'd take you, the journeys, the things you'd learn and experience? Books are magical!



It starts on your mom's lap, reading books like *Good Night Moon*. I got that book when my kids were born. It was donated by the Reading Foundation, and it came with information about the importance of reading to your child 20 minutes a day, to "promote healthy brain development, family bonding, and school success." And boy did I read! From *Good Night Moon* to *The Hobbit*, books were journeys we experienced together. And because this, my kids became strong readers, curious learners, and engaged and successful students.



Their school success was important to me because I struggled in school. I had dyslexia, could not read in third grade, and was considered a "slow learner". But I had a tutor and she helped me become a reader. And the more I read the better I got, and the better I got, the more I read, and that meant more journeys, more adventures, more learning. Reading and books changed my life. Books are magical!



And that is why I run a youth literacy organization that:

- Shares new board books and literacy packets with parents of newborns. Like me, those parents now understand the value of reading to their kids and have their first family-favorite book to read together each night, and
- Provides over 1,500 books to children each week; most are low-income and more likely to struggle with reading and less likely to have regular access to books.

Here are the comments of one such parent: "I grew up in the system and for me reading was one of the few things I had no matter where I was. So, when I had my son, we would read any book I could find, but being a single mom, I had to rely on the kindness of others. Your program has filled our home with books and allowed me to be a reading mom."



This mom and her son now have a house full of books; books that will build healthy brain development, family bonding, and school success. Books that will take them on adventures and journeys, teach them new things, and provide exciting experiences. Books are magical!

Happy reading adventures!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Jennifer Williamson-Forster".

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 40,000+ free books and literacy materials.
- **Books for the Break** - partners with schools and food banks to deliver books to homeless and low income children.
- **Literacy Bookshelves** - stocks 14,000+ 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 14,000+ 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 2,300+ 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.

A YEAR IN PICTURES



Bringing the joy and promise of books and reading to all South Sound children since 2001

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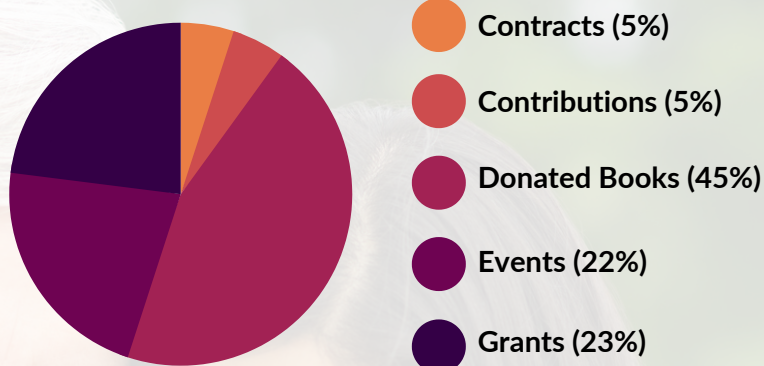
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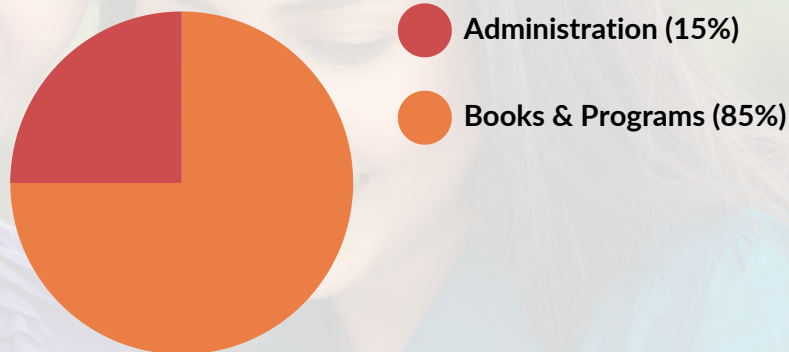
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Coordinator**
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2021-2022 Financials

Income



Expense



Contact Us

South Sound Reading Foundation

Mailing address:
305 College St. NE
Lacey, WA 98516

Physical address:
200 Sleater-Kinney Rd NE
Olympia, WA 98506



Main Office: 360-412-4499



read2me@nthurston.k12.wa.us



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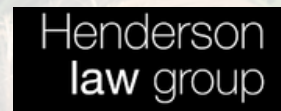
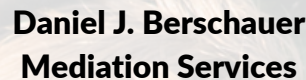
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Rotary International, & Zonta of South Puget Sound

TESTIMONIALS



“

Thank you for being here each week and having books my student can read, it makes him feel like the other kids, having his own books.

”

-Teacher of Special ED student



-Parent at distribution event

“

I had to clean out a space last week for my daughter, she informed me that she wanted her own library because she now loves reading books.

”

“

Thank you so much, you have no idea how much this will help with my classroom setup. I can't afford everything I really need and SSRF has really helped to fill my gaps.

”

-Teacher at resource day



**-Corinn Wohl, Director of Community Engagement
TwinStar Credit Union**

“

We believe so strongly in their vision and mission that along with sponsoring and attending fundraising events, one of our members of our leadership team serves on their board of directors! Their vision of a community where ALL children read well and enjoy reading leading to new opportunities aligns perfectly with TwinStar's belief that literacy leads to the confidence to learn. Learning and knowledge open the doors to amazing opportunities. We appreciate the work of the South Sound Reading Foundation and are honored to support their efforts.

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