

# THE LITTLE ORGANIZATION THAT COULD



LITERACYNOW

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I M P A C T R E P O R T

# FAREWELL FROM YOUR OUTGOING CONDUCTOR



HELLO DEAR FRIENDS,

As you likely know, this is my last letter as the Conductor of this little organization that could. As I reflect on the last 17+ years, I am incredibly humbled by the generosity of time, talent, and treasure shared with Making It Better/Literacy Now by thousands of amazing supporters just like YOU! Our donors, volunteers, staff, and partners are absolutely beyond compare and what we've built, together, these last 17+ years is incredible. We started in one HISD school with me and 8 part-time tutors and in 2023-24, we had 10 full-time and 53 part-time staff members serving 15 campuses. I am overwhelmed with gratitude to have had the privilege to lead and earn the trust of donors, volunteers, employees, and partners alike during my time as the Conductor.

My last year at the helm has been quite a ride with many twists and turns brought on by the TEA takeover of HISD. However, I am so incredibly proud of our entire staff who have been flexible while keeping their eyes on what's most important . . . the kids and teaching them to read! Our mantra for 2023-24 was turning challenges into opportunities and we have done just that. I am delighted to say that in 2024-25, we will be expanding our Reading Intervention program from serving in two ISDs to serving in four ISDs and three public charter schools.

Although I am no longer the Conductor of this little organization that could, I am excited about my new role as Donor & Partner Relations Liaison and the opportunities that will afford me to be singularly focused on YOU (and have a bit more personal time)! It's time to entrust the next generation with the future of Literacy Now and I'm thrilled to have a front row seat to watch Jacklyn Minimah-Wilson take the organization to the next level.

Outside of being a wife, mother, and grandmother, leading Making It Better/Literacy Now has been the greatest joy and privilege of my life. I thank each of YOU for your trust, support, and friendship and look forward to continuing this work together!

God bless you, friends,

*Jacquie Daughtry*

Jacquie Daughtry  
Donor & Partner Relations Liaison

# GREETINGS FROM THE NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



DEAR LITERACY NOW FRIENDS AND FAMILY,

It is an immense honor to step into the role of Chief Executive Officer at Literacy Now. Taking the helm of an organization that has been a beacon of empowering children and families through literacy is both a privilege and a profound responsibility. The journey ahead is brimming with opportunities to deepen our impact and expand our reach, and I am truly thrilled to steer us on this new voyage.

Your incredible support and steadfast dedication have been instrumental in playing a crucial role in making our vision a reality. It is your belief in our mission that has that has guided our progress and inspired us to strive for excellence. As we move forward, I am committed to building on the strong foundation that has been established and driving our efforts toward even greater achievements.

Together, we have accomplished so much, and I truly believe that with your continued support, we can reach extraordinary heights in the future. My focus will be on expanding outreach and engagement as we chart new courses with more school districts and charter schools; enhancing program effectiveness; and strengthening partnerships and collaboration. To achieve these goals, we need dedicated and passionate supporters like you. I am excited about the opportunity to work together with all of you as we make progress toward our shared goals.

Thank you once again for your belief in our mission and for your continued dedication. I am eager to embark on this journey with you. Together, we can make a profound difference and create lasting positive change in our community.

With deepest gratitude and excitement,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jacklyn Minimah-Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Jacklyn Minimah-Wilson, M.Ed.  
Chief Executive Officer

AN EXCITING NEW JOURNEY

# OH YES, WE DID! 2023-2024 IMPACT



**150% INCREASE**

IN READING SKILLS FOR READING INTERVENTION STUDENTS (AVERAGE)

**2,444** TOTAL PEOPLE SERVED



**916** K - 5TH GRADE STUDENTS THROUGH READING INTERVENTION



**1,209** PARENTS THROUGH PARENT PARTNERSHIP



**108** STUDENTS THROUGH LUNCH BUNCH



**211** CHILDREN AND PARENTS THROUGH THE READING EXPRESS

**13,312** TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICE HOURS

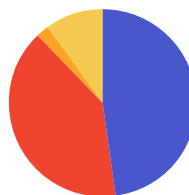
## DEMOGRAPHICS



**53%** MALE



**47%** FEMALE



- 48% Hispanic
- 40% African American
- 7% Other/Mixed
- 3% White

**375** VOLUNTEERS READ TO **14,000** PRE-K-3RD GRADE STUDENTS DURING HOUSTON READS DAY AT **43** HOUSTON AREA ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS



**680** VOLUNTEERS PROVIDED **1,300** HOURS AT A VALUE OF **\$39,000**



**896** LITERACY KITS DISTRIBUTED



**14,539** TOTAL BOOKS DISTRIBUTED

# THE LITTLE ORGANIZATION THAT COULD

## TRANSFORMING CHALLENGES INTO OPPORTUNITIES

The obstacles posed by the TEA takeover of HISD in the 2023-2024 school year had profound and lasting effects on Literacy Now and the students we served. But as the Little Organization That Could, we were not deterred and have used these challenges as a catalyst for growth in new school districts and charter schools throughout Houston. The resiliency of Literacy Now allowed us to remain steadfast in our vision that every child will read at grade level as we continue to chart new courses and empower kids to read!

## I THINK I CAN, I THINK I CAN, I THINK I CAN



Meet Noorsahira, a timid first grader, who joined our Reading Intervention program and struggled to pronounce even the simplest sight words. With determination and effort, she became an independent reader by the end of the year, proving the effectiveness of our program is empowering kids to read!

## CLICKY CLACK, MY READING IS ON TRACK



Meet Muzamile, an energetic and humorous young man who was in our Reading Intervention program to help him read at grade level. Our dedicated and compassionate Interventionists worked with him and by the end of the program, Muzamile's reading skills were off the charts as he realized a **229%** increase in his reading skills!

## I HAVE NEVER BEEN OVER THE MOUNTAIN, UNTIL NOW



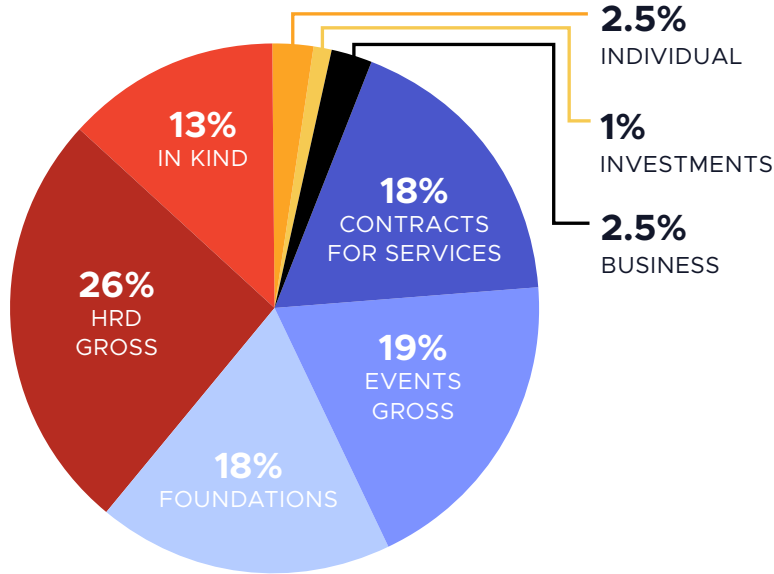
Just like the Little Engine That Could, Sophia was unable to accomplish her goals prior to joining our program. Despite her passion and determination, she faced challenges with reading until she joined our Reading Intervention program, which provided her with the necessary tools and resources to conquer that obstacle.



# FINANCIALS

# MAJOR SUPPORTERS

## INCOME SUMMARY 2023-2024



●	.....	\$65,188	●	.....	\$716,314
●	.....	\$503,500	●	.....	\$365,468
●	.....	\$534,175	●	.....	\$43,299
●	.....	\$499,750	●	.....	\$24,680

**TOTAL: \$2,752,374**

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Amerant Bank                                 | Kaley & Dana Jurick                 |
| Aris Water Solutions                         | Kirkland & Ellis                    |
| Audubon Companies                            | Karla & Paul LeBlanc                |
| BCCK   | Andrea & James Maher                |
| Victoria Beard                               | Mekala Kathirvel & Deepak Manoharan |
| Julie & Kevin Blount                         | Sandra McDowell                     |
| Boyar Miller                                 | Jessica & Ted Moore                 |
| Laura & Nathan Brownell                      | Nine Energy                         |
| Bunch Family Charitable Fund                 | NOV                                 |
| Cadence Bank                                 | Locke Lord                          |
| CapStreet                                    | Piper Sandler                       |
| Cheniere Energy                              | Rebecca & Dudley Ray                |
| Claire and David de Roode Family Fund        | Riveron Holdings LP                 |
| Nisha Desai & Alan Clark                     | Sapphire Natural Gas                |
| Community Health Choice/Harris Health System | Niti & Sanjiv Shah                  |
| Jacque & Mike Daughtry                       | Cristina & Creighton Smith          |
| Teresa & John Davis                          | Smith & Associates                  |
| Stacy & Greg Davis                           | Solaris Companies                   |
| Deep Well Services                           | Stallion                            |
| Energy Corridor District                     | TDECU                               |
| F-E-T  | Texas Mutual Insurance Company      |
| Shelley Frisby                               | TPH & Co.                           |
| Britain & Jeremy Garner                      | Trammell Crow Company LLC           |
| Harris County Department Of Education        | Vinson & Elkins LLP                 |
| Austrie Hesford                              | Vulcan                              |
| Hines Interests Limited Partnership          | Wells Fargo - Wealth Management     |
| Jennifer & Brent Howard                      | White Deer Management LLC           |
| Howco  | Dawn & Ken Zieren                   |

# THANKS TO OUR MAJOR DONORS FOR MAKING AN IMPACT



PROVIDING ENERGY. IMPROVING LIVES.



JOSEPH & TERRI GUGENHEIM  
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION  
THE KINGDOM TRUST FOUNDATION  
WHALLEY FOUNDATION

LYNDA BAIN  
JULIA & JODY BATDORF  
ANNA & FRED CHARLTON  
MIGNON & STEVE GILL  
VANEE & STEVE KESTEN

CATHY & FRANK MONTGOMERY  
LYNNE & BRET PARDUE  
DENISE & KEVIN POYNTER  
ANNALEE & ANDY WAITE

# ALL ABOARD TO SUPPORT STRUGGLING READERS

<b>\$10K</b>	Helps support the cost of program materials and supplies for our Reading Intervention program
<b>\$5K</b>	Helps support the salary of one Reading Interventionist
<b>\$2.5K</b>	Helps provide materials and supplies for three Parent Engagement Workshops
<b>\$1K</b>	Helps sponsor one child in the Reading Intervention program
<b>\$500</b>	Provides materials, supplies and volunteer training for the Lunch Bunch mentoring program
<b>\$250</b>	Provides materials and supplies for The Reading Express mobile classroom
<b>\$100</b>	Provides 30 books to be distributed to children
<b>\$50</b>	Helps provide supplies and materials for take home backpacks
<b>\$25</b>	Provides literacy enrichment activity supplies

**DONATE:**



**BY MAIL:**

14781 Memorial Dr. #25, Houston, TX 77079



**ONLINE:**

[literacynowhouston.org](http://literacynowhouston.org)

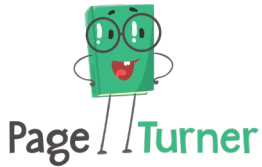




# DON'T GET LEFT AT THE STATION - JOIN US TODAY!

## LITERACY NOW 16TH ANNUAL MAGNUMS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**11.09.24** AN UNFORGETTABLE WINE  
DINNER HELPING US EMPOWER  
THE ST. REGIS HOUSTON KIDS THROUGH READING



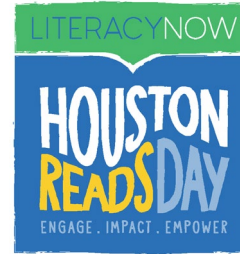
### MAKE A BIG IMPACT

Become A *Page Turner*  
Monthly Donor TODAY!

## GIVING TUESDAY

### GIVING TUESDAY DECEMBER 3, 2024

Make a difference by  
supporting our Reading  
Intervention program on this  
Global Day of Giving.



### 5TH ANNUAL HOUSTON READS DAY FEBRUARY 28, 2025

Join more than 400 volunteers  
in reading to over 14,000 Pre-K  
through fifth graders to raise  
awareness about the literacy  
crisis in our city and support our  
Reading Intervention program.



LITERACYNOW  
GUILD

### 11TH ANNUAL GUILD LUNCHEON FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2025

Junior League of Houston



### BOOK/LITERACY SUPPLIES DRIVE

Support the kids by conducting  
a book and/or supplies drive.  
[Click here](#) for more information.



## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:**

**Lunch Bunch Mentor**  
(October – April)

**The Reading Express**  
(October – May)

**Group Storytime**  
(October – April)

**Houston Reads Day**  
(February 28, 2025)

## **ONGOING:**

**Story Swap Library**  
**Administrative Projects**  
**Book Stamping**

# **2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

## **CHAIRMAN**

**Deepak Manoharan**

## **MEMBERS**

**Nathan Brownell**

**Dr. Jessica Faith Carter**

**Jasmine Castleberry**

**Fred Charlton**

**Giselle Rodriguez  
Greenwood**

**John Haley**

**Monsterville Horton, IV**

**Jennifer Howard**

**Paul LeBlanc**

**Deviyani Misra-Godwin**

**Lynsey Ritchie**

**Andy Waite**

## **NON-VOTING MEMBER**

**Dr. Margie Sutton**

**CONNECT WITH US**



**LITERACYNOWHOUSTON.ORG**