



WE ARE ONE.



LITERACYNOW

2025 - 2026

IMPACT REPORT

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



DEAR LITERACY NOW FRIENDS AND FAMILY,

As we reflect on another incredible year, I'm reminded of the simple yet powerful theme that guided us throughout 2025–2026: **We Are ONE!**

This year, those three words came to life in extraordinary ways. We saw them in our programs, across our school and community partnerships, through the dedication of our volunteers, and in the unwavering commitment of every person who believes in our mission.

Whether you volunteered your time, invested in our work, served on our Board of Directors, partnered with our schools, or championed literacy through your generosity and advocacy, you were part of something far greater than yourself. Together, we united as ONE to create brighter futures for the children and families we serve.

Because of you, students strengthened their reading skills, built confidence, and discovered the joy and opportunity that come with becoming readers. Families received meaningful support, teachers gained trusted partners, and schools welcomed a community united by one shared purpose: ensuring every child can succeed.

This impact belongs to all of us!

It is a powerful reminder that lasting change is never the work of one person or one organization. It happens when an entire community comes together around a shared vision. Every hour volunteered, every dollar invested, every partnership formed, and every word of encouragement helped write a new chapter in a child's story.

As you read through this report, I hope you'll see more than numbers and milestones. I hope you'll see the lives transformed, the opportunities created, and the collective impact we made together. Thank you for believing in our mission, standing alongside us, and helping build a future where every child has the literacy skills to thrive.

In January 2027, we turn the page to a new chapter and celebrate **20 years of Making It Better/Literacy Now**. We do so with tremendous gratitude and even greater optimism. The foundation we've built together over the past two decades has prepared us to deepen our impact, strengthen our partnerships, and reach even more children and families in the years ahead. We invite you to continue this journey with us as we build on our legacy and create an even brighter future.

Together, we truly are ONE.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "J. Minimah-Wilson".

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

2,398
TOTAL PEOPLE SERVED



892 K - 12TH GRADE
READING INTERVENTION
STUDENTS



36,812 HOURS OF DIRECT
SERVICE



900+ PARENTS SERVED
VIA PARENT ENGAGEMENT
WORKSHOPS

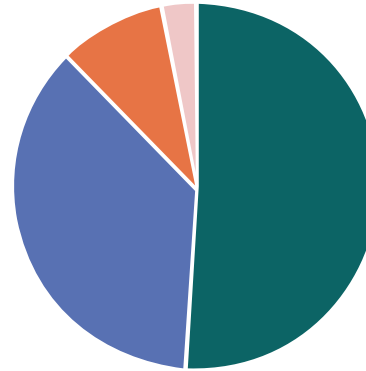


1,282 READING EXPRESS
CHILDREN AND PARENTS



13,489 BOOKS DISTRIBUTED
ACROSS ALL PROGRAMS

DEMOGRAPHICS



51% Hispanic
37% African American
9% Other/Mixed
3% White



53%
FEMALE



47%
MALE



85% INCREASE
IN READING SKILLS FOR READING
INTERVENTION STUDENTS (AVERAGE)



794 VOLUNTEERS PROVIDED 1,829 HOURS
AT A VALUE OF \$64,000

EXPLORING OUR IMPACT

2025-2026

ONE CHILD. ONE STORY. ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES.

When Sebastian, a kindergartener at Kujawa EC/PreK/K in Aldine ISD, joined Literacy Now's Reading Intervention program, he struggled to recognize sight words and was reading below grade level. Like many young learners, he often felt discouraged and lacked confidence in his abilities.

With personalized instruction, consistent encouragement, and his own determination, Sebastian's story began to change.



By the end of the program, he wasn't just reading with confidence – he was thriving. Every new word that he mastered strengthened not only his literacy skills but also his belief in himself.

His biggest cheerleader has been his mom, Janett, a single mother of four, who has supported him every step of his reading journey. Reflecting on his progress, she shared:



"The Reading Intervention program has given him the push he needed to succeed, and now he is the self-proclaimed 'best reader' in his class."

Sebastian's journey is a powerful reminder that when children receive the right support at the right time, they gain far more than reading skills. They discover confidence, unlock new opportunities, and begin to see themselves as capable learners with limitless potential.



GROWING READERS, BUILDING CONFIDENCE

Every success story begins with one child – and a community that believes in them.

This year, Reading Intervention students achieved more than reading gains. They built confidence, participated more actively in

the classroom, earned recognition for their hard work, and discovered a genuine love of reading that extended beyond the school day. Teachers celebrated their growth, parents watched their confidence soar, and students began to see themselves as capable, successful readers.

When we come together as ONE, we do more than teach children to read – we empower them with skills, confidence, and belief in themselves, empowering them to succeed in school, at home, and throughout their lives.

PUTTING YOUNG READERS ON THE RIGHT TRACK

This year, our Reading Express mobile classroom reached a record number of children and families, expanding access to early literacy experiences through the generous support of donors and our seven community site partners.

Designed for children ages 2 months to 4 years old, this “school on wheels” delivers weekly, one-hour interactive literacy experiences directly to neighborhoods across Harris County. Through books, songs, play, and caregiver engagement, the Reading Express helps build the language, vocabulary, and early literacy foundations that prepare



young children for kindergarten and future academic success.

Throughout the year, families also enjoyed special visits from guest readers, including Harris County Precinct 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey and Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Lesley Briones,

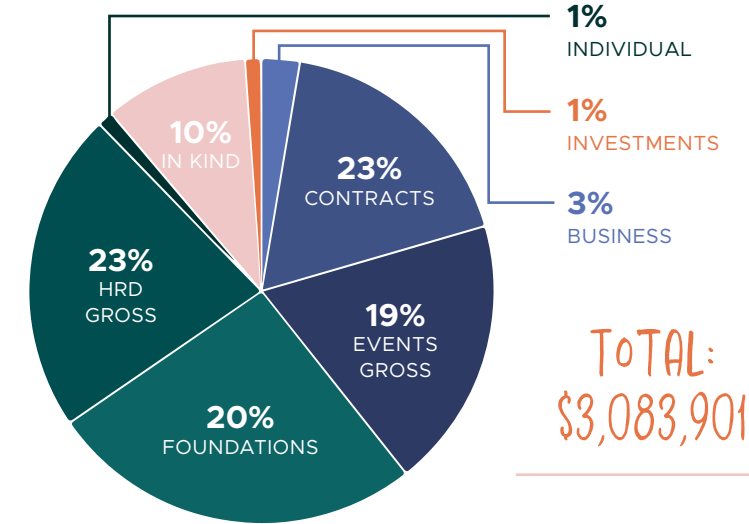
who shared the joy of reading with our youngest learners and reinforced the importance of making books and storytelling part of everyday family life.



FINANCIALS

INCOME SUMMARY 2024-2025

MAJOR SUPPORTERS



●		\$79,389
●		\$701,970
●		\$588,954
●		\$619,851
●		\$703,622
●		\$45,501
●		\$309,540
●		\$35,074

Allied Fitting
Audubon
Lynda Bain
Julia & Jody Batdorf
BCCK
BoyarMiller
Bunch Family
Charitable Fund
Cullen Burton
Cactus Companies
Cadence Bank
CapStreet
Charity Guild of
Catholic Women

Charter Title
Company
Chubb Charitable
Foundation /
Thomas Fitzpatrick
Community Health
Choice / Harris
Health System
Coreworks
Jacque & Mike
Daughtry
Nisha Desai & Alan
Clark
Philana Diaz
F-E-T
Fidelity National /
Rick Harmon Jr.

Halliburton
Charitable
Foundation
H-E-B
Albert & Ethel
Herzstein
Foundation
Hines Interests
Limited Partnership
Stephanie
Holzhauser
The Houston
Foundation
Houston Junior
Forum
Houston Pi Beta Phi
Foundation

Jennifer & Brent
Howard
Kalsey & Dana
Jurick
Mekala Kathirvel &
Deepak Manoharan
Vanee & Steve
Kesten
Kirkland & Ellis
Paul & Karla LeBlanc
Katie & Trevor
Meeks
Deviyani Misra-
Godwin & Gareth
Mugeli
Cathy & Frank
Montgomery

Nine Energy /
Ann Fox
NOV
Stephanie Yi & Terry
Padden
Lynne & Bret
Pardue/GaP
Transaction
Advisors, LLC
Piper Sandler
Elizabeth Pinion
PNC Foundation
Powers Brown
Architecture
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Dickinson LLP
Dawn & Ken Zieren

PARTNERS IN IMPACT

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EIVCapital


EMERSON

 **FREUDENBERG**
INNOVATING TOGETHER

e²

 **J TURNER**
RESEARCH

 **Impact100[™]** *Houston*



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FOUNDATION**

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TRIPLE J
INSULATION SERVICES

Vinson & Elkins LLP

WILEY

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CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
THE KINGDOM TRUST
FOUNDATION

LEGACY ENHANCEMENT
LYNNE & BRET PARDUE
DENISE & KEVIN POYNTER
ANNALEE & ANDY WAITE

EVERY GIFT CREATES COMMUNITY

\$10K	Helps support the cost of program materials and supplies for our Reading Intervention program
\$5K	Toward Reading Intervention program delivery
\$2.5K	Provides materials and supplies for three Parent Engagement Workshops
\$1K	Helps sponsor one child in the Reading Intervention program
\$500	Toward Reading Intervention program curriculum
\$250	Provides materials and supplies for The Reading Express mobile classroom
\$100	Provides 30 books to be distributed to children
\$50	Helps provide supplies and materials for take – home backpacks
\$25	Provides literacy enrichment activity supplies

DONATE!



BY MAIL:

14781 Memorial Dr. #25, Houston, TX 77079



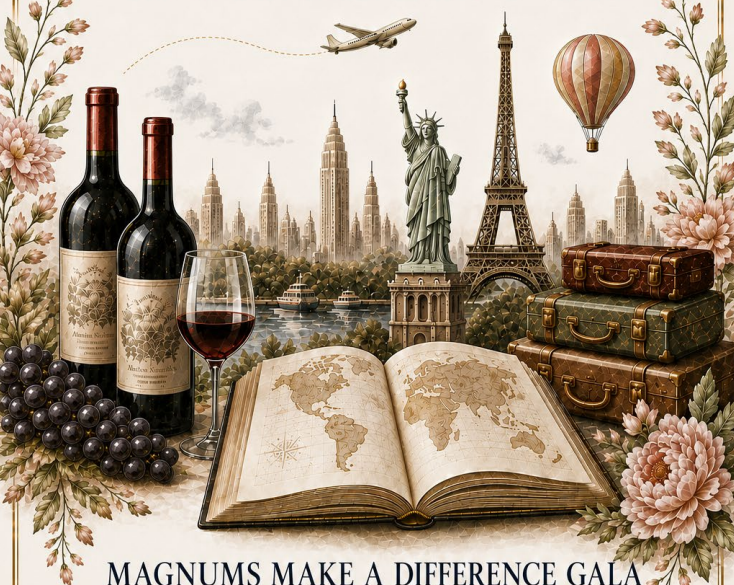
ONLINE:

literacynowhouston.org

UNITED THROUGH GIVING

Save the Date PASSPORT TO PAGES

WHERE LITERACY OPENS WORLDS



MAGNUMS MAKE A DIFFERENCE GALA
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2026

HOUSTON GRAND HOTEL
(FORMERLY ST. REGIS)

HONORING

STEVE KESTEN ♦ LYNNE & BRET PARDUE

CHAired BY

JENNIFER & BRENT HOWARD
and
CAROLYN ROCH & JOHN HALEY

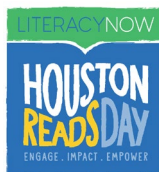


Page Turner



LITERACYNOW
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

GIVING
TUESDAY



LITERACYNOW
GUILD



BE A CHAMPION FOR LITERACY!

Become A Page Turner Monthly Donor TODAY!

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Join this growing group of Young Professionals in networking while supporting Literacy Now's programs and brand awareness.

GIVING TUESDAY - DECEMBER 1, 2026

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

7TH ANNUAL HOUSTON READS DAY FEBRUARY 26, 2027

A single day to engage with students to raise awareness about the literacy crisis in Houston, promote the importance of reading, and raise funds to support young struggling readers.

13TH ANNUAL GUILD LUNCHEON FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 2027

At the Junior League of Houston

BOOK/LITERACY SUPPLIES DRIVE

Support the kids by conducting a book and/or supplies drive.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

The Reading Express

(October – May)

Group Storytime

(October – June)

Story Swap Library

(October – June)

Adopt a Swap

(October – June)

Houston Reads Day

(February 26, 2027)

ONGOING:

Young Professionals

Book Drives

Administrative Projects

Book Sorting

2025 - 2026

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Jasmine Castleberry

Fred Charlton

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Monsterville Horton, IV

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Jacklyn Minimah-Wilson, M.Ed.

CONNECT WITH US



LITERACYNOWHOUSTON.ORG