

Reading Is **Fundamental Pittsburgh** 

## Reading Is FUNdamental

Pittsburgh



2013 - 2014 Annual Report



# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Recent studies have shown that in low-income communities there is only one book available for every 300 children. In fact, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) reports that nearly two-thirds of economically disadvantaged children do not have books in their homes.

The situation here in Pittsburgh is no different. According to A+Schools' 2014 Report to the Community, a significant literacy gap exists for economically disadvantaged students in Pittsburgh, placing thousands of our city's children at risk of academic failure. This report shows that more than 50% of economically disadvantaged children in the Pittsburgh Public Schools' elementary schools cannot read at grade level.

Reading Is FUNdamental (RIF) Pittsburgh addresses these critical needs in our community by offering consistent, high-quality "pushed-in" literacy experiences and resources for the economically disadvantaged students in our community. We focus our efforts on the early childhood centers, schools, community centers, and after-school programs serving our city's most economically disadvantaged children.

Together, our four programs reach over 21,000 children and families in our local community, putting more than 75,000 self-selected books into the homes of the children and families that need it most. We also gave away an additional 11,000 books at events throughout our city.

Our goal each year is to ensure that all of our programs work in tandem, building upon each other to create a web of services aimed at mitigating the literacy gap. We will continue to saturate targeted neighborhoods with as many of our programs as possible, creating an environment that will enable a child to be exposed to RIF programs from two years of age through 6th grade.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Pace Markowitz
Mark Morrison
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"STUDENTS OFTEN
BRING THEIR BOOKS
TO LUNCH, RECESS, OR
EVEN BACK TO THE
LIBRARY TO TALK
ABOUT THEM OR
CONTINUE
READING THEM. THEY
ARE VERY PROUD OF
THEIR NEW BOOKS!
THEY OFTEN ASK
WHEN OUR NEXT RIF
DAY WILL BE."

Jennifer Salvatore-Garrett, Pittsburgh Arlington

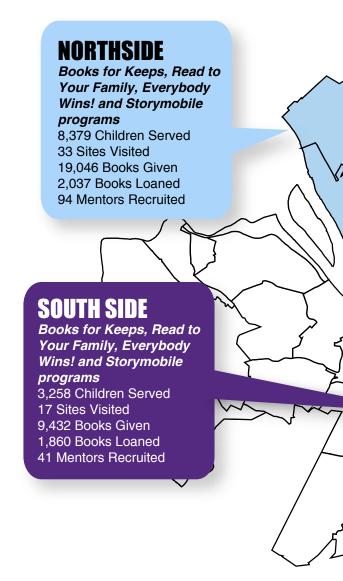
Our mission is to provide children with the resources, motivation, and opportunities to develop a life-long love of reading.

### **WE SERVE....**

- More than 21,000 economically disadvantaged children and families in Pittsburgh and the surrounding communities through our programs and an additional 11,000 through community events
- More than 140 sites
- Seven targeted neighborhoods: East Liberty, Hazelwood, Hill District, Homewood, Northside, South Side, and Wilkinsburg

#### Our core programs:

- Bring innovative, high-quality literacy experiences to children and families
- Support students as they build literacy skills and work to develop a life-long love of reading
- Provide more than 86,000 books each year to the children who need them the most



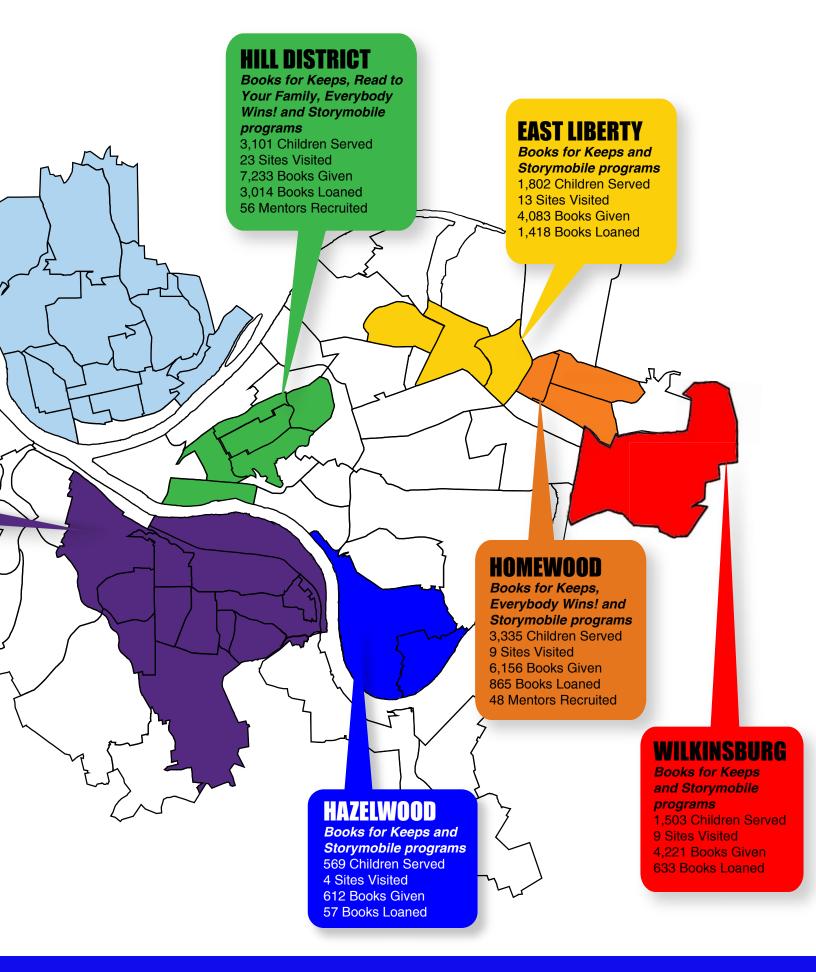
#### **REST OF CITY**

Books for Keeps and Read to Your Family programs 8,883 Children Served 35 Sites Visited 22,893 Books Given

#### **OUTSIDE OF CITY**

Books for Keeps program 943 Children Served 3 Sites Visited 3,107 Books Given

\*Program Year 9/13 - 8/14





### **BOOKS FOR KEEPS**

Our oldest and largest program, Books for Keeps, engages children in 3-5 Reading Celebrations each year. Designed to engage children in the joy of reading and learning, Reading Celebrations pair story times with fun, motivational activities such as crafts, games, and even science experiments! At the end of the Celebration, each child selects a book of their very own to take home and keep!

By combining literature with art, music, creative writing and STEAM themes, RIF Pittsburgh works to ignite a passion for reading and learning that will follow children throughout their lives.

Annually, this program:

- Partners with more than 100 sites, including early childhood centers, schools, afterschool programs, and community centers
- Serves 20,000 economically disadvantaged children in Pittsburgh and the surrounding communities
- Provides more than 58,000 new, high-quality books for children to take home and keep through Celebrations and events



"She always brings home age appropriate books that are very colorful and fun for her to read."

### **MATH AND SCIENCE**

Our Books for Keeps Math and Science Program takes advantage of the integrative nature of reading to combine math, science, and literacy together in a meaningful way. By engaging children in handson math and science activities that complement our regular Reading Celebrations, we encourage curiosity and a passion for discovery in children and help to plant the first seeds for a life-long love of learning. This unique program introduces children to new books that explore the world through the lens of math and science.

By hypothesizing, estimating, observing, predicting, and measuring, children form meaningful connections between what they experience through reading and what exists in the world around them.

In the 2013-2014 program year, our Books for Keeps Math and Science Program:

- Provided high-quality STEAM educational experiences to more than 2,200 children at 25 sites
- Introduced children to challenging subject matter in a way that they embraced and enjoyed, helping to support broader academic goals
- Brought special guests, like ALCOSAN and Snapology, to help with fun experiments and talk to the children about careers in STEAMfields



### **EVERYBODY WINS!**

Everybody Wins! is a lunchtime literacy mentoring program that pairs 2nd and 3rd grade students with a caring adult to build a meaningful relationship while sharing conversation, good books, and literacy-related activities for one hour a week.

These consistent, one-on-one experiences increase a child's opportunity for success, both academically and in life.

Formal evaluations of Everybody Wins! have shown the program to be one of the very few programs to effectively impact low-income students in reading comprehension, motivation, and achievement, as well as overall academic performance, classroom behavior, self-confidence, and social skills. In the 2013-2014 program year, Everybody Wins!

- Facilitated ten reading sessions each week at four Pittsburgh Public Schools elementary schools (Faison, King, Phillips, and Weil)
- Matched 217 children with 234 volunteer mentors from local companies and organizations
- Supported our students and mentors as they read more than 3,800 books together
- Brought special guests, like local author Paige Green, to reading sessions to talk with students





### **STORYMOBILE**

Our Storymobiles are a lending libraries-on-wheels that take books and literacy resources to early childhood centers, schools, afterschool programs, housing communities, and community events across our city. Bi-weekly visits allow us to build strong relationships within these communities and tailor programming to their unique preferences and needs as we strive to develop our Storymobiles into a gathering place for positive, multi-generational interaction.

In the 2013-2014 program year, our Storymobiles:

- Served 3,900 children and families at nearly
   60 sites in the community
- Loaned nearly 10,000 books and gave away
   9,300 books to the children at our sites
- Visited nearly 60 community events throughout the city, providing an additional 7,500 books.



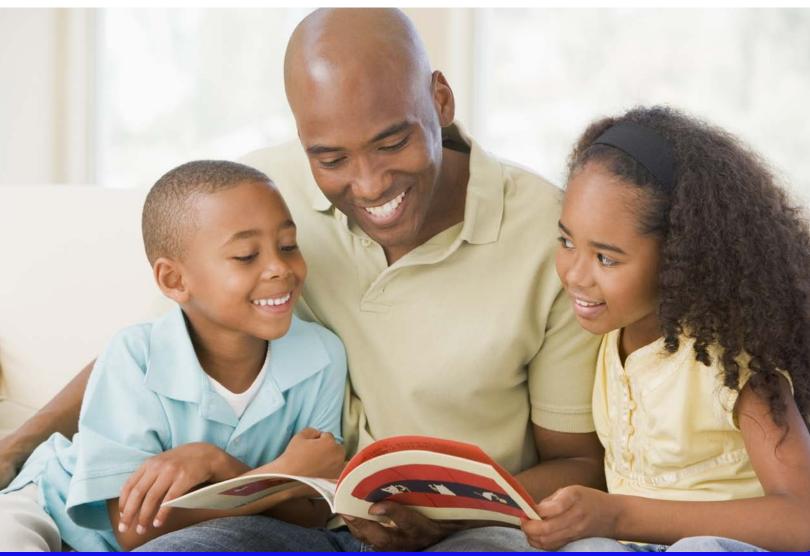
### **READ TO YOUR FAMILY**

Read to Your Family is a program that engages families in their children's reading development and encourages children to become proficient readers. This program gives families the opportunity to share in the excitement of reading books together, which also strengthens the learning experience at home.

RIF Pittsburgh works with schools and teachers to provide public recognition, prizes, and educational incentives to reward students when they read at home with their families. The program emphasizes the importance of literacy to families, while adding another layer of reading motivation for children.

We have continued our **Storymobile STARS reading incentive program**, which we piloted last year. In partnership with the Beverly Jewel Wall Lovelace (BJWL) afterschool programs in Bedford Dwellings, Northview Heights, and Oak Hill, we challenge children to read 10-15 books on their own, write book reviews summarizing their thoughts, and reward the children each time they reach 5-book benchmarks. We also encourage parents and families to get in on the fun by reading at home with their children.

Last year, students and families who participated in this program **read more than 8,000 books together!** 



"I do not always have money for books for my children. In fact, 90% of the books they have were given through these types of programs."

### INDIVIDUAL DONORS

#### Collection Level (\$1,000+)

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Chapter Book Level

Chapter Book Level (\$50 - \$99)

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Westerberg

Charles and Elise Yanders Johanna Yoho

Alice Young Florence and Harvey Zeve

#### Picture Book Level (\$25 - \$49)

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Charles Allerton
Barbara Andrews
Margie Bachman
Matthew Bachman
Ralph Bangs and Marian
Kennedy
Beverly Barkon

Beverly Barkon Theresa Bauer Rose and Ed Berman Charles and Patricia

Bluestone Bob and Jane Bracken

Donna Brett

Jessica and Jeff Brown

Shanese Brown Ron Carmassi

Joan H. and Harold Chelemer
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John Disney Elisabeth Dorman Lauren M. Dorsch Jeanne Drennan Dan Earley Sandra Early Anita Fingal

Seth Finn Roslynn Fitzgerald Jane Fleischauer James Fogarty

Nicholas and Patricia Galizia

Arlene Grubbs Jeanne Hanchett Nancy Harris Marshall and Eleanor

Hershberg Karen Howe Tim Hull

John and Adrienne Hunter

Linda lams

Ellen Teri Kaplan Goldstein Mark and Darlene Krynicki

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#### Other Level (<\$25)

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### Thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who donate their time to RIF Pittsburgh each year.

Listing includes individuals who volunteered between 6/13 - 5/14

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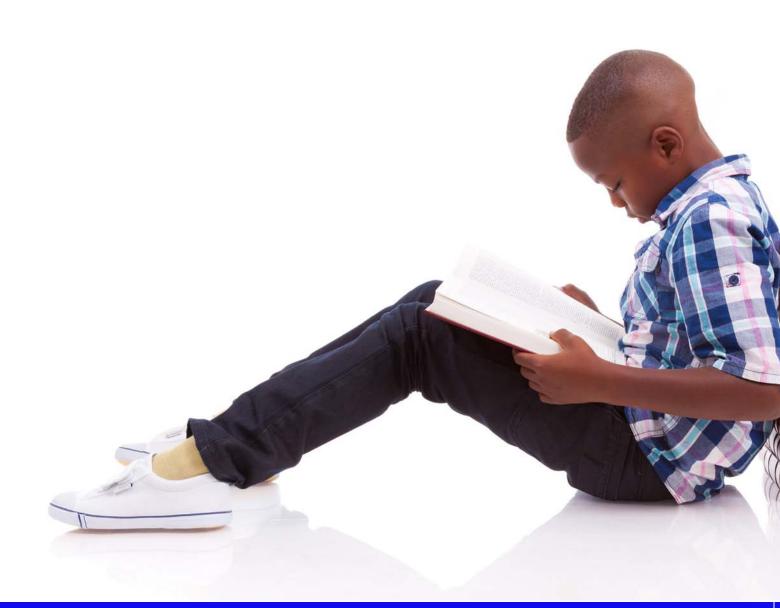
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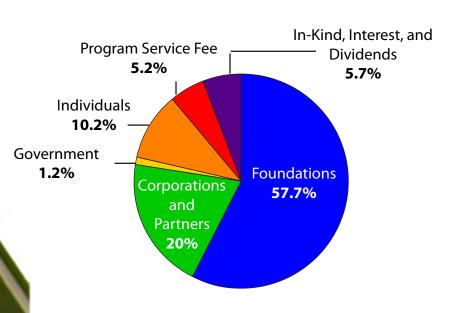
### **FINANCIALS**

#### **Total Revenue:**

\$1,288,360

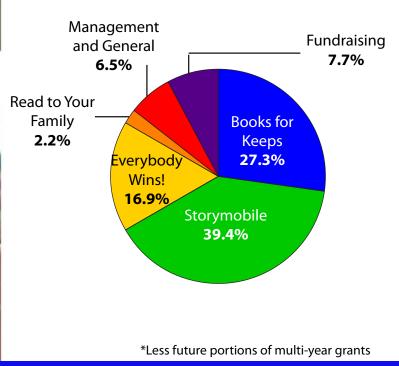
#### Adjusted Revenue:

\$953,360\*

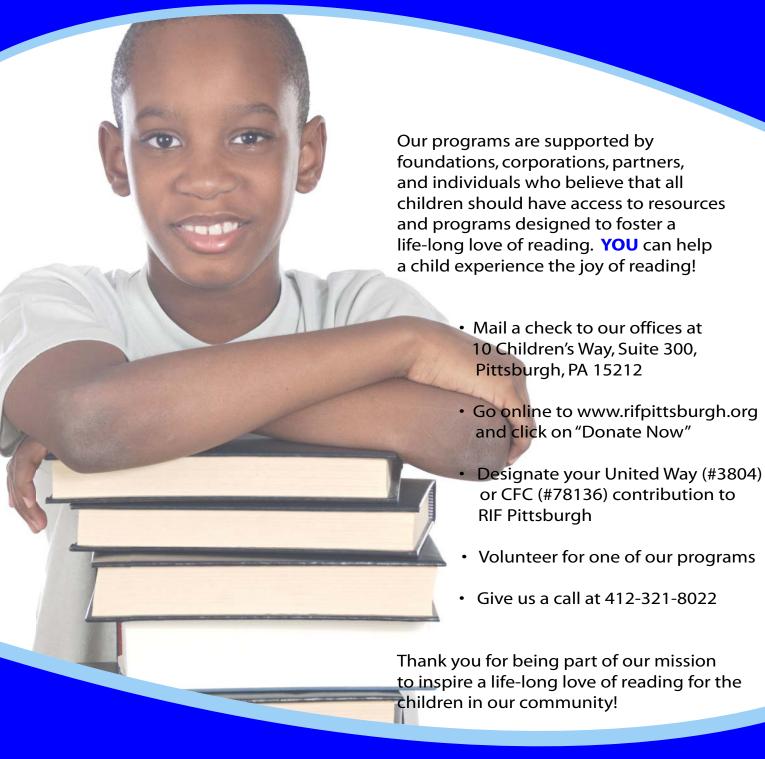


#### **Total Expenses:**

\$761,474



### Give a child the gift of reading...







Reading Is Fundamental **Pittsburgh** 

