books for kids

2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Celebrating 30 years of early childhood literacy

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of Books for Kids,

I am filled with pride to write this letter for our 2015-2016 Annual Report. **This year was one of the most successful in Books for Kids' history** with increases in revenue, an unprecedented expansion of our literacy programs, the addition of four new libraries to the Books for Kids family, and the revitalization of many older libraries in New York City.

Each year, we sit down as a team to reflect on our accomplishments and we think about how these achievements continue the story of Books for Kids. **This year marked the 30th chapter in Books for Kids' narrative. Like the colorful picture books our literacy programs provide, each page of our story has opened a world of possibilities for thousands of children living without access to books and libraries.** The narrative of our story has shifted throughout the years with the introduction of new characters and challenges that threaten to halt our progress. But each year, there is a perpetual hero that comes in to ensure our story continues: **our donors.**

Your support ensures that the children who use our libraries learn, during the most formative years of development, the important role books will play in their education and their life. **Because of you, more children have books and a beautiful and inspiring library to call their own.** Thank you.

In the following pages, **I hope you will see how you, the hero of our story, once again prevailed to ensure more children and families have access to books and literacy programs.** As we continue to grow, your support is needed more than ever. We hope you will join us for another chapter of Books for Kids.

Best wishes and happy heading,

Amanda Hirsh
Executive Director

2015-2016 IMPACT

8,823 books donated for children's home libraries

11,779 books donated to our lending libraries across the United States

2,318 books donated to classrooms in need throughout New York City

TOTAL BOOKS DONATED **22,920**

1,300 books read aloud by Library Specialists in our libraries

7,300 children and families served by all our libraries nationwide

7,917 books borrowed from our libraries with funded literacy programs

88.6% average return rate of books borrowed in libraries with funded literacy programs

52 certified and active libraries across the United States

6 LIBRARIES OPENED AND RENOVATED IN 2015-2016

Cutting the ribbon on a new or renovated library is always an exciting day at Books for Kids. For everyone on our team, it's a day to celebrate another victory for early childhood education, putting us step closer to ending childhood illiteracy. For our sponsors, it's a day to reflect on the amazing contribution they have made to a community of children living without access to books. For the teachers and school staff, it's a day to look ahead and plan new lessons with books that they never thought would be available at their school. **But the most priceless reactions? The joy of the children we serve.**

As children make their first explorations of their new library, they run their fingers along the spines of the new books on the shelves. For many of them, it's their first time ever stepping foot in a library. Their eyes dart quickly around the room and they exclaim proudly when they can identify a letter, an animal, or the rainbow among the hand-painted murals on the wall. **The smiles on their faces are priceless memories for everyone in attendance at each library opening.**

In 2015-2016 we built four new libraries and renovated two older Books for Kids libraries. In total, these libraries serve 908 low-income children and their families. Each library built and renovated in 2015-2016 included one year of innovative literacy programs to make it an active resource for education.

Our four new libraries this year were made possible through the continued patronage of the **Mario Batali Foundation**. Through their sponsorship we built our third library in Las Vegas, NV and built three new libraries in Los Angeles, CA. These libraries were the 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th libraries built through the generosity of the Mario Batali Foundation.

Legg Mason sponsored the renovation of an older Books for Kids library in the Crown Heights neighborhood of Brooklyn, NY. This was the second Books for Kids library renovated through our partnership with Legg Mason.

Ron and Steve Sussman generously renovated an older Books for Kids library in Harlem, NY and additionally funded literacy programs in another older library on the Lower East Side of Manhattan.

GROWING OUR LITERACY PROGRAMS

Opening a library is only the beginning of our innovative approach to improving early childhood literacy education in low-income communities. Once the library is open, it is our goal to have it used regularly by children, teachers, and parents at our schools. To accomplish this goal, **we provide each school with a dedicated Library Specialist** who comes weekly to lend books to the children, conduct *StoryTime*, engage parents with the library, and work with teachers to make book recommendations for their lessons. Our Library Specialists are an invaluable resource for our schools, who operate with limited resources.

Our Library Specialists are reading role models for our children. Each week they are greeted with hugs and smiles from the children they work with. Our Specialists get to know the teachers and students at each school, cater their lessons to align with the curriculum in the classroom, and help children find books to meet their individual needs and interests.

In 2014-2015, our donors funded 11 libraries to have weekly literacy programs with a dedicated Library Specialist. **In 2015-2016, we operated programming in 24 libraries throughout the United States. That is an increase of 118% percent.** It is our goal to expand on this unprecedented growth in years to come. We won't stop until we have weekly literacy programming in 100% of our libraries nationwide.

Belly laughs and hands raised with comments and questions are just a few ways we measure a successful *StoryTime* in our libraries. Children look forward to their time in the library with the Library Specialists.

Once *StoryTime* finishes, children get to choose a new book to borrow for the week. **Below, a child gives her library book a kiss.** Many of the children we serve have few, if any, books at home. The ones our program provides them are truly cherished.

Our libraries are not only valued resources for teachers and children at our schools, but for parents and caregivers as well. Specialists encourage parents and caregivers to use the library for quiet reading time with their child before or after school.

Library Specialists host monthly parent events in the library to encourage them to play an active role in their child's literacy education.

We rely on support from our donors to help us provide critical literacy support to children, caregivers, and educators nationwide. We could not have accomplished the highlights of this past year without your generous patronage.

Books for Kids is a 501(c)(3) organization.
All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Tax ID: 13-3539811

$332,580
The Mario Batali Foundation

$114,314
The U.S. Department of Education

$75,000
Legg Mason

$56,640
Tuck's R.U.S.H. For Literacy

$20,000 - $30,000
Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation
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Barry's Bootcamp
Beautique
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Ashley Beireis
Carolyn and William Blodgett
Bombas
Irina Braginsky
Cafe Clover
Capstone Publishing
City View Racquet Club
Corinthian Media
Corroon
David Barton Gym
Robert Delaney
Dermalogica
Allison Dirksen
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TOTAL REVENUE 2015-2016

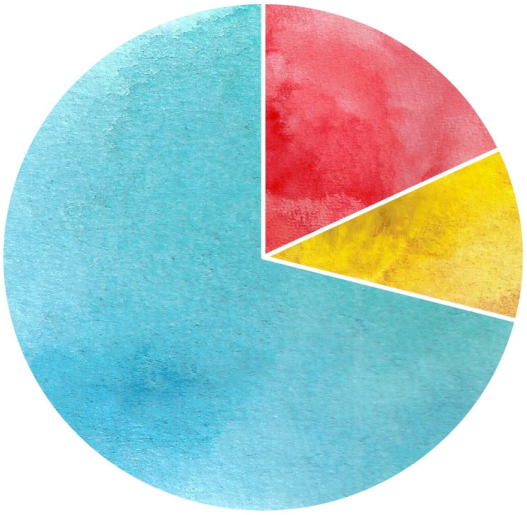
* **$995,508**

TOTAL EXPENSES 2015-2016

* **$857,776**

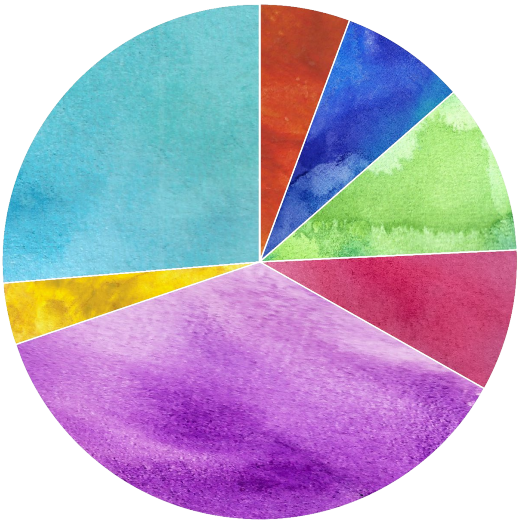
**As reported on our Independent Auditors Report performed by Malesardi, Quackenbush, Swift, & Company LLC*

EXPENSE BREAKDOWN



71% - Programs
11% -Administration
18% -Fundraising

SOURCE OF REVENUE BREAKDOWN



26% - Fundraising
4% - Foundation
36% - Library Sponsorships
8% - Individual
6% - Corporate
9% - In-Kind
11% - Government Grants

BOOKS FOR KIDS LIBRARIES

as of June 30, 2016

Although Books for Kids has built over 80 libraries, the libraries listed with an (*) signify current and certified libraries.

NEW YORK CITY

Bronx, NY

Crawford Day Care Center
Family Support Systems
Franklin Avenue Residence
Fulton Day Care Center *
Gwendolyn Bland Day Care Center *
Jackson Family Residence
Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club
Passages Academy at Horizons Juvenile Center
University Heights Day Care Center

Brooklyn, NY

Association of Black Social Workers
Bishop Sexton Head Start *
Brooklyn Charter School
Cooper Park Child Care Center *
Cycle Educational Center, Inc.
Cypress Hills Child Care Corporation *
Family Justice Center (Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence) *
Friends of Crown Heights Educational Centers, Inc. *
Marcy Children's Place *
Mary McLeod Bethune Day Care Center *
Project Chance
Special Victims of the Brooklyn D.A.'s Office *
WIN Junius Street Family Residence

Manhattan, NY

Abundant Waters After School Program at PS 111
Addie Mae Collins Community Services *
Annie G. Newsome Head Start
Bank Street Head Start
DeWitt Reformed Church Head Start *
Goddard Riverside Day Care Center *
Grand Street Settlement Day Care Center *
Grosvenor Neighborhood House, Inc. *
Hudson Guild Community Center *
Lutheran Social Services Early Life Program *
Lenox Avenue Early Childhood Center *
Hamilton Grange Day Care Center
Hamilton Madison House Head Start and Family Day Care *
Harlem Day Charter School
Mid-Manhattan Learning Center
Morningside Day Care Center *
Northern Manhattan Head Start *
Police Athletic League /Duncan Center *
Regent Family Residence *
SCAN LaGuardia House Nursery *
Seventh Ave Center for Family Services
Sheltering Arms Day Care Center

Manhattan, NY, cont.

St. Elizabeth School Child Care Program
The Center For Pre-School and Family Learning
UFBCO Child Development Center *
Virginia Day Nursery *
West Harlem Head Start Program

Queens, NY

Andrew Landi Day Care Center
Concerned Parents of Jamaica Day Care Center *
Goodwill Industries of Greater New York and Northern New Jersey *
Latimer Gardens Community Center
Ravenswood Community Center

TRI-STATE AREA

Buffalo, NY

Innocents Day Care Center

Syosset, NY

F.E.G.S Hempstead Multi-Service Center

Huntington Station, NY

Manor Field Family Center

Nyack, NY

Nyack Children's Center *

Wyandanch, NY

Wyandanch Day Care Center

Yonkers, NY

Yonkers Children's Place

Bridgeport, CT

Action for Bridgeport Community Development *

Greenwich, CT

Boys & Girls Club of Greenwich *
Family Centers' Greenwich Head Start

New Haven, CT

Catholic Charities Child Development Center *

Paterson, NJ

Father English Community Center

NATIONAL

Phoenix, AZ

The Booker T. Washington Child Development Center *

Los Angeles, CA

California Children's Academy *
Crystal Stairs, Inc. *
Training and Research Head Start *

San Francisco, CA

Kai Ming Head Start - North Beach Center *

Wilmington, DE

Latin American Community Center *

Washington, DC

Boys & Girls Club of Greater Washington - FBR Branch *
Edward C. Mazique Parent Child Center *

Chicago, IL

Carole Robertson Center- North Lawndale *

Jamaica Plain, MA

Nazareth Child Care Center *

Rockville, MD

Lincoln Park Community Center *

Detroit, MI

Cass Community Social Services Center *

Las Vegas, NV

Acelero Learning Head Start Center *
Acelero Spring Valley Learning Center *
Variety Early Learning Center *

Philadelphia, PA

Diversified Community Services - Western *
Gillespie Area/Drexel Beacon Center

Memphis, TN

Hanley Head Start *
Martin Luther King Jr. Head Start Center *

Irving, TX

Education Station Learning Center *

Seattle, WA

Solid Ground - Sand Point *

books for kids
The Books for Kids Foundation
C/O: CLAL
440 Park Ave South, 4th FL.
New York, NY 10016
info@booksforkids.org Phone: 212-760-2665
www.booksforkids.org Fax: 212-779-1009