Our Mission: To facilitate supportive relationships for children through family and friends reading aloud with them.

Our Vision: That all children will feel the security of caring adult relationships and develop a love of reading through the read-aloud experience.
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Children are our future. Their sense of stability, value, and purpose are fundamental to their future – and ours!! 2021 was a year of challenges, change, and courage. Thanks to the incredibly important support and encouragement from our community, we were able to contribute to the educational and emotional health of children, youth, and families through the simple activity of reading stories aloud together.

In the process, children become a catalyst for growth and well-being in all of us. Sharing of our time, talents, and values with children through stories read aloud with them creates a sense of joy and satisfaction as a ripple benefit.

Reading Legacies commitment to pursue this quest for changing the paradigm in our country to make it a top priority to read aloud with children for educational and emotional benefits is stronger than ever. As we conclude our 12th year of service, we look forward to working alongside all of you as we pursue this common goal for the well-being of our children, youth, and families.

Onward and upward!

Betty J. Mohlenbrock

Founder & President
Stephen R. Lewis, M.D. Presidential Chair
The purpose of our **Book Bridges program** is to strengthen relationships between family members separated by incarceration or drug rehabilitation treatment through the read-aloud experience, and to establish the habit of reading aloud together while instilling a love of reading in the children.

The Book Bridges program helps children transcend the bars that separate them from their incarcerated loved ones. In 2021, we were honored to celebrate the success stories of our former Book Bridges program participants alongside their children, San Diego community members, and dedicated volunteers. The “Be A Force for Our Children” event, in partnership with the San Diego Strike Force indoor football league, was held in August at Liberty Station.

Guest Speakers included Kory Russell and Maribel de la Rosa-Villa, two individuals whose families have been positively impacted by our program. Kory and his two daughters graciously shared about what the opportunity to reconnect through the program meant to them, and how it has influenced the strong relationship they have today. In turn, Maribel was joined by her daughters to share their story. She described the opportunity as “a steppingstone to reconcile with [her] children”, and her girls shared how much they appreciated their mom taking the time to read to them during their time apart.

Our program that is provided for women in addiction recovery has empowered and encouraged these mothers to read aloud with their children when they are able to spend time with them. Our educational materials and beautiful children’s books provided to these mothers has given them a stepping stone to positively engage with their children that allows for positive communication and growth for both the children and the mothers. These moments of connection have been especially healing during the difficult adjustment of recovery during the pandemic.

“The will help build my child’s imagination...it gives us quiet bonding time together...it’s a chance to see my baby smile and laugh”. - Book Bridges program participant(s)

**Parent participants** 24

**Children benefitted** 60
The purpose of our First Teachers program is to engage parents in the development of their children through discussion and collaboration... empowering them as their children’s “first teacher.”

Every minute you read to children makes a difference. Empowering parents as their children’s first teachers is a pillar of educational and emotional success. The First Teachers program includes a series of workshops that encourage parents to trust their instincts, gather resources, and read aloud regularly to prepare their children for success in school.

During our 2021 workshops, parents of children enrolled in local Head Start centers discussed simple techniques for supporting their children’s reading habits. Workshops invited parents to dig a little deeper and ask: How can I involve my child in the read-aloud experience? What resources can I utilize? What does an engaging read-aloud look like? To further encourage the habit of reading in the home, we also mailed each parent a free book suitable for their child’s age.

In the Fall, our team attended a family-centered event hosted by Naval Base San Diego. Our team had great conversations with families and individuals about the benefits of reading aloud with their children and how they can learn more through participating in our programs.

“I have been trying the methods that were shown during the workshop and my daughter and even 6-month old baby are very engaged while I’m reading. I read every night and my daughter doesn’t let me forget!”
- First Teachers program participant

Parent participants

117

Children benefitted

293
The purpose of our **Storybook Legacies program** (originally called Grandparent Storybooks) is to provide meaningful communication between generations as they read stories aloud together, using technology to bridge geographical separations and to enhance intergenerational interactions.

Through this special program, adult readers are coached and recorded on video reading a favorite book to their children, grandchildren, and other important children in their lives. Their recording is then sent to their family to be enjoyed and cherished time and again. A true “Reading Legacy” is created as readers reflect on their own memories and life experiences as they read the story aloud; a gift to be treasured by generations.

Throughout 2021, program participants from Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church and Altrusa International of Chula Vista recorded read-aloud videos for their grandchildren (and other family members) who live near and far. To broaden the impact of our Storybook Legacies program, we’ve also developed new partnerships with local public libraries to connect families through the magic of reading together.

“I got to share about where our family is from and communicate with my beloved grandchildren and great-grandchildren.” - Storybook Legacies program participant

**STORYBOOK LEGACIES PROGRAM**

2021 Annual Report
The purpose of our **Youth Readers program** is to develop and nurture youth who volunteer in their own communities and families to instill the joy of reading in children.

Our Youth Readers program benefits teens, young children, and the communities in which they live through the simple, yet magical experience of reading together.

This year, we continued to support young children in San Diego County through a virtual program adaptation. Partnerships between Reading Legacies and local Head Start centers, high schools, and teen volunteer organizations, allowed us to create and distribute dozens of educational read-aloud videos for children and their families. Nine student interns from San Diego State University joined our efforts during their 2021 fall semester, assisting with various program needs.

Through this virtual program adaptation, our team has been able to continue facilitating supportive relationships for preschool students as they develop into emerging readers.

"I really enjoyed imagining the kids I would be reading to. I always loved being read to by my parents, so I hope these videos bring joy to children in need." - Youth Reader volunteer

**Youth participants**: 45

**Children benefitted**: 452
CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS

January-December 2021

Reading Legacies is a 501(c)(3), nonprofit, public benefit organization supported by gifts and grants from individuals, corporations, foundations, civic groups, and service organizations. On their behalf, we thank you!

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- Judith Campbell Educational and Community Foundation
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Donors who have contributed $10,000 or more in their lifetimes are listed with their lifetime giving.

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San Diego Strike Force

*Dr. Stephen R. Lewis, M.D., the husband of Cheryl Lewis, one of the founding board members of Reading Legacies, died September 21, 2010, after battling kidney cancer for more than a year. We are deeply honored that Cheryl has chosen Reading Legacies to be the beneficiary of any gifts in his memory. Following discussions with Cheryl and her family, the Reading Legacies Board of Trustees decided to honor Steve’s life by directing all donations made in his memory into the Stephen R. Lewis, M.D. Legacy Fund for Reading Legacies.

(Legacy Fund donors are indicated with an asterisk.)

Reading Legacies is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization. Federal Tax ID #27-0523331
Our work would not be possible without the many dedicated volunteers who help carry out our mission. Keeping families connected through the power of reading together is what we do best - even in times of change. We’ve seen the profound impact reading has on children. Whether it’s recorded on video or facilitated at home, the benefits are truly everlasting for both the reader and the listener.

Total volunteer hours in 2021: **568 hours**

“Donors, and the McBeth Foundation, act from both the heart and the head. Reading Legacies has demonstrated that it’s a good steward of donor money and there is an imminent need for your mission in our community and for the good work it provides to individuals and families. Our Foundation trusts your organization and respects the direct impact it has had on its constituents. The McBeth Foundation wishes to be associated with Reading Legacies and the emotional impact and personal connection it has established with those in need. Continued success in your endeavors.”

- Norm Timmins, Grant Committee Member, McBeth Foundation
Total Income: $399,189.00

Total Expenses: $317,125.00
Mission
Our mission is to facilitate supportive relationships for children through family and friends reading aloud with them.

Vision
Our vision is that all children will feel the security of caring adult relationships and develop a love of reading through the read-aloud experience.

Core Values
We value children and youth as powerful, important resources for the future of any community.

We value intergenerational social interaction as an opportunity to share cultural heritage and values.

We value reading aloud as an effective medium to build relationships and develop an interest in reading.

We value service to others as a powerful method for personal growth and an increase in self-worth.

We value our relationship with our community and our country as a public trust by providing services with the highest integrity and sound business practices.

@ReadingLegacies  Instagram  Twitter  www.readinglegacies.org

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