



*Reading Together  
Strengthens Relationships.*



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

**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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# FOUNDER'S MESSAGE


## Dear Friends and Fellow Community Members!

Thank you for a remarkable 2023!! We all worked together in various collaborations to educate, empower, and excite as many as possible to take up the mantle for connecting with children through the nurturing and educational activity of reading aloud with them. The benefits are foundational – and life-changing for all involved!

Our niche-focused mission of facilitating supportive relationships for children and youth through reading aloud with them has positively impacted **3,532** lives in 2023, bringing us one step closer to fulfillment of our vision for ALL children to know they are valued and to learn the love of reading.

We have barely scratched the surface, given the many needs in our country. So, as we enter our 15th year of service in 2024, we anticipate growing our replicable programs throughout San Diego County and beyond through thoughtful and intentional collaborations with others who seek to prioritize the simplicity of taking time to share of themselves by reading and communicating with children and youth. There is no more fundamental way for us to lead the way to a healthy and secure future for all children than to provide “reading legacies” in their hearts and minds. Please continue to work with us in the years to come.

Blessings,



Betty J. Mohlenbrock

*Founder & President*

*Stephen R. Lewis, M.D. Presidential Chair*



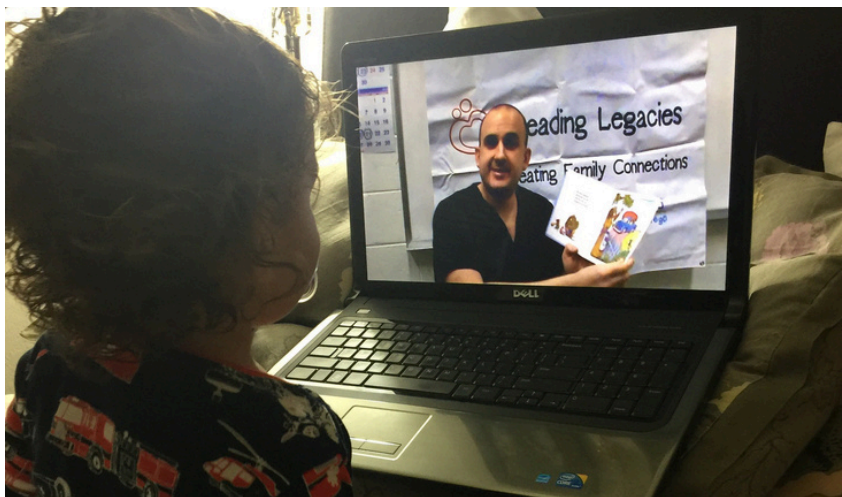
# BOOK BRIDGES PROGRAM



The purpose of our **Book Bridges program** is to instill the joy of reading in children, strengthen relationships between incarcerated parents and their children through the read-aloud experience, and establish the habit of reading aloud together regularly in the home.

In 2023, the program expanded across four San Diego County detention facilities serving both men and women. We hosted monthly, in-person workshops with parents within these facilities. We are thankful to the San Diego County Sheriff's Department and our dedicated volunteers for their ongoing support, as well as the generous contributions from community organizations and individuals who have financially supported our program.

The program received endorsement from San Diego County District Attorney Summer Stephan following our participation in the National Association of Women Judges' annual event, Success Inside & Out, focusing on incarcerated women. Our efforts also extended to women at the Vista Hill Foundation's ParentCare Family Recovery facilities. Here, we collaborate with chemically dependent women and their families who face significant challenges such as child abuse, domestic violence, and homelessness. Our program encourages and empowers these women to engage in reading aloud with their children during one-on-one time, providing powerful benefits for all involved, particularly the children who greatly benefit from their parents' love and attention.



Parent participants

461

Children benefitted

731

*"I feel lots of peace and I can just imagine being there reading to them in person."*

- Parent and Book Bridges program participant

# FIRST TEACHERS PROGRAM



The purpose of our **First Teachers program** is to empower parents as their child's first teachers by educating and motivating them to read aloud with children regularly at home.

In 2023, Reading Legacies hosted monthly "Family Story Hours" at Liberty Station, supported by volunteers who are typically parent-youth pairs, often from National Charity League and/or Teen Volunteers in Action. These volunteers serve as exemplary role models for the importance of reading together as a family. Additionally, in June and December, the program held large-scale outdoor "Family Story Hour" events at Liberty Station featuring authors Lauren Freckles (of the Babbling Beth series) and Jashon Sykes (former NFL player and author of "Multitask with Jarvis and Dad"). Families from across San Diego County joined these events.

The First Teacher Parent Workshops were conducted for parents of the Episcopal Community Services - Castle Park Head Start Center and parents enrolled in the Casa de Amistad program, primarily serving Spanish-speaking parents. In collaboration with Solana Beach County Library, we promoted the use of local public libraries and provided additional resources to families during our workshops. Based on research evidence, the six-workshop series is designed to empower parents, encouraging them to share the joy of reading with their children while participating in open discussions with facilitators and other parents.



Parent participants

159

Children benefitted

258

*"I feel more comfortable when I read aloud with my son and our relationship has benefited from the respect and trust we have developed through shared reading."*

- Parent and First Teachers program participant

# STORYBOOK INSPIRATIONS PROGRAM



Our **Storybook Inspirations** program is designed to support and enhance intergenerational relationships by providing meaningful communication between generations as they read stories aloud together.

Staff and volunteers assist participants with book recommendations, provide encouragement, videotape each participant, and send a secure link of the recording to the child(ren) with whom they wish to stay in touch.

Throughout 2023, the program continued at the Liberty Station and Coronado Public Library locations. Over the summer, we expanded our program offerings through collaborations with Logan Heights Library and Point Loma/Hervey Branch Library. Towards the end of the year, Storybook Inspirations extended its reach to two retirement communities, Fredericka Manor and The Shores Post-Acute, with volunteer teams from Amazon and San Diego State University's business fraternity, Alpha Kappa Psi.

The Storybook Inspirations program participants successfully shared their video recordings with loved ones, including grandchildren residing in different parts of the country.



Senior participants

58

Children benefitted

116

*"This is the best program I have ever heard of for distanced parents and grandparents."*

-Grantparent and Storybook Inspirations program participant

# YOUTH READERS PROGRAM

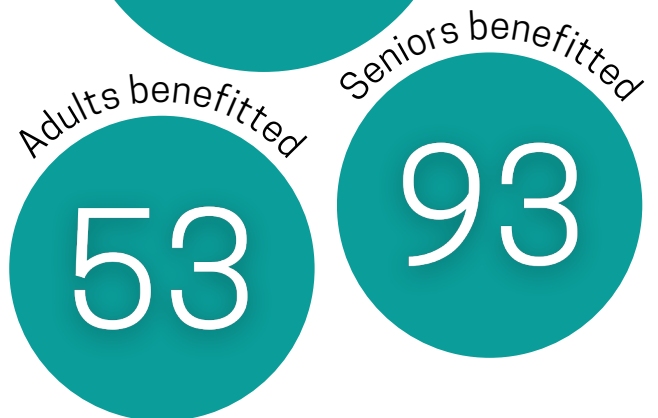
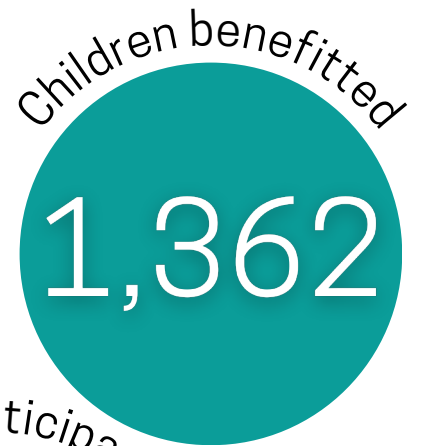


Our **Youth Readers** program aims to develop and nurture youth reading role models who volunteer in their own communities and families to instill the joy of reading in children.

In 2023, the traditional Youth Readers model operated in Escondido, where students from Escondido High School Interact Club read to young children at Hickory Head Start Center. Similarly, in 4S Ranch, students from Del Norte High School Key Club engaged with children at the Kids Care Club child development center. At the Valencia Park/Malcolm X Library, in collaboration with the Day II Day Foundation, a group of Lincoln High School football players provided Family Story Hour to families visiting the library.

Our collaboration with e3 Civic High School continued with student volunteers serving as virtual Youth Readers. Their recorded readings were shared with childcare centers for families to enjoy together at home. Later in the year, students began volunteering weekly at the Joyride Bookshop in the New Children’s Museum, reading aloud with young children.

A unique application of the Youth Readers program was seen at Coronado Retirement Village, where groups of Girl Scouts of various ages volunteered monthly to read with seniors, creating meaningful interactions through shared reading experiences. This adaptation was also mirrored at ActivCare Retirement Community in 4S Ranch, where young Girl Scouts read with seniors, extending the program's impact across generations.



*“I think the biggest reward I have received from participating was building my confidence and my reading skills”*

- Youth Readers participant

# CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS

January-December 2023

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!

## \$50,000+

McBeth Foundation  
San Diego Foundation - Early Childhood Initiative  
in partnership with the Dr. Seuss Foundation

## \$25,000 - \$49,999

Dr. Lynnette Beall [*in memoriam*]  
Hervey Family Fund at The San Diego Foundation

## \$10,000 - \$24,999

City of Coronado Community Grant  
Cushman Foundation  
Henry L. Guenther Foundation  
Judith Campbell Educational  
and Community Foundation  
Peggy and Robert Matthews Foundation

## \$5,000 - \$9,999

The Christopher Family Foundation  
a discretionary grant from Doris K. Christopher  
Dr. & Mrs. Clifford W. Colwell  
Girard Foundation  
- Discretionary Fund of Mr. Buzz Woolley  
Goodwin Family Memorial Trust at Wells Fargo  
Guilford Whitney Foundation Fund  
- at the San Diego Foundation, at the request  
of Judy Connor  
Las Patronas  
Ms. Joan Burch Luhrsen  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Orlando  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Sudberry, Jr  
Vital Spark Foundation

## \$2,500- \$4,999

Anonymous  
Arthur P. Pratt and Jeanette G. Pratt  
Memorial Fund  
Dr. & Mrs. Charles Q. Carter\*  
Chick-Fil-A via A Good Name Foundation Giving  
Fund at the National Christian Foundation\*  
The Eva May Fleet Fund  
at The San Diego Foundation  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Giles  
Mills Foundation  
Nora Roberts Foundation  
Samuel I. and John Henry Fox Foundation  
US Bank

## \$1,000 - \$2,499

Alpha Delta Kappa - ETA Chapter  
Dr. & Mrs. James P. Blasingame  
Mr. Terry Carter\*  
Dr. and Mrs. David Davenport  
Ms. Charlotte Griffin  
Mr. Norman F. Hapke  
in honor of Gina Gianzero,  
founder of the Diamond Educational  
Excellence Partnership  
Mr. & Mrs. William Hodges\*  
Jamul Indian Village of California  
CAPT & Mrs. Tom Mitchell  
Solera Desert Mountain Bible Fellowship

### **The Legacy of Lynnette Beall, Ph.D.**

We are proud to honor the memory and generosity of **Lynnette Beall, Ph.D.**, whose life was dedicated to the education and well-being of others, as we continue to work with young people who need the gift of literacy every day.

Through her passionate support and generosity over the years in honor of her sister Carolyn Colwell, and her inclusion of Reading Legacies in a bequest, **we at Reading Legacies are honored to carry her legacy into the future through our programs for children and families everywhere.**



Soroptimist International of Coronado  
Ms. Dianne Sparks  
Ms. Elizabeth Valenzuela-Banker  
Walter & Lola Green Donor Advised Fund at  
the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation  
Governor and Mrs. Pete Wilson

## \$500 - \$999

Conrad and Christa Burke Fund  
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Rotary Club of Santee-Lakeside  
Scripps Howard Foundation  
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CAPT and Mrs. H.A. Zoehrer

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Ms. Dale F. Steele  
Temple Emanu-El of San Diego  
Mr. Shaun Wiley

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Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Bacon

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in memory of Lt. Cdr. Donald S. Stebbins  
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## \$1-\$99

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San Diego Gives  
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Mr. Domingo Velazquez

\*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.



# CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS

## Lifetime Monetary Donors

Donors who have contributed \$10,000 or more in their lifetimes are listed with their lifetime giving.

### \$200,000+

McBeth Foundation

### \$100,000- \$199,999

Hervey Family Non-Endowment Fund  
at The San Diego Foundation

San Diego Foundation

- Early Childhood Initiative Equal Opportunities Grant

Dr. Seuss Foundation

- Dr. Seuss Foundation

- Dr. Seuss Fund at the San Diego Foundation

R.B Woolley, Jr.

- Mr. Buzz Woolley

- Girard Foundation - Discretionary Fund of Mr. Buzz Woolley

- Woolley Fund at the San Diego Foundation

### \$50,000 - \$99,999

Dr. & Mrs. Charles Q. Carter

- Dr. & Mrs. Charles Q. Carter

- The Charles Q. and Margaret W. Carter Fund  
at The National Christian Foundation

Cushman Foundation

Judith Campbell Educational and Community Foundation

Joan Burch Luhrsen

- Mr. and Mrs. Paul Luhrsen

- Joan Burch Luhrsen

Dr. and Mrs. William C. Mohlenbrock

Nordson Corporation Foundation

Reed Elsevier - RELX

S. Mark Taper Foundation

### \$25,000 - \$49,999

Dr. Lynnette Beall [*in memoriam*]

City of Coronado Community Grant

C.J. & Dot Stafford Memorial Trust at Wells Fargo

Dr. and Mrs. Clifford W. Colwell

- Dr. and Mrs. Clifford W. Colwell

- Colwell Family Distributable Fund  
at The San Diego Foundation

Conrad Prebys Foundation

San Diego County - Board of Supervisors Grant

Goodwin Family Memorial Trust at Wells Fargo

Johnson Family

- Johnson Family Foundation Fund

at the National Christian Foundation

- Johnson Family Foundation

- Johnson Family Foundation

at United Way of San Diego County

Judith Campbell Educational and Community Foundation

Mr. Alexander G. Kelley [*in memoriam*]

Ms. Cheryl Carter King

McCarthy Family Foundation

MUFG Union Bank, N.A.

The Parker Foundation

Samuel H. French III & Katherine Weaver French Fund

Sudberry Properties

The Tony Robbins Foundation

Wells Fargo Foundation

Wintemute Family Foundation

### \$10,000 - \$24,999

Allan and Lyndsey Arendsee Family Foundation

Altrusa International of Chula Vista

Arthur P. Pratt and Jeanette G. Pratt Memorial Fund

Boys and Girls Foundation

CareFusion Foundation at The San Diego Foundation

Mr. Terry Carter

Chick-Fil-A via A Good Name Foundation Giving Fund

at the National Christian Foundation

The Christopher Family Foundation

- discretionary fund of Doris K. Christopher

City of San Diego Small Business and Nonprofit Relief Fund

in partnership with The San Diego Foundation

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Las Patronas

Lawyers Club of San Diego Fund For Justice

at The San Diego Foundation

L'Oreal Paris

- L'Oreal Paris at The GoodCoin Foundation

- Points of Light Foundation/L'Oreal Women of Worth

Ms. Julianne Moore

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Orlando

- Mr. and Mrs. Michael Orlando

- Michael P. Orlando Charitable Endowment

at The San Diego Foundation

Peggy and Robert Matthews Foundation

Price Philanthropies Foundation

at the discretion of Julie Nguyen

The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation

- Directors Grants Program on behalf of Gayle Wilson

Samuel I. and John Henry Fox Foundation, Union Bank

SDG&E

Solera Desert Mountain Bible Fellowship

Soroptimist International of Coronado

Swinton Family Fund at the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation

Vital Spark Foundation

Weingart Foundation

Please accept our apologies for any errors or omissions. If we have made a mistake, please let us know so that we can update our records.

# VOLUNTEERS

Our mission thrives thanks to our devoted volunteers, without whom our work would not be achievable. Our specialty lies in keeping families connected through shared reading experiences, a commitment we uphold even amidst change. We've witnessed firsthand the profound impact of reading on children, whether through recorded sessions or in-person facilitation, with lasting benefits for both the reader and the listener.

Total volunteer hours in 2023: **841 hours**

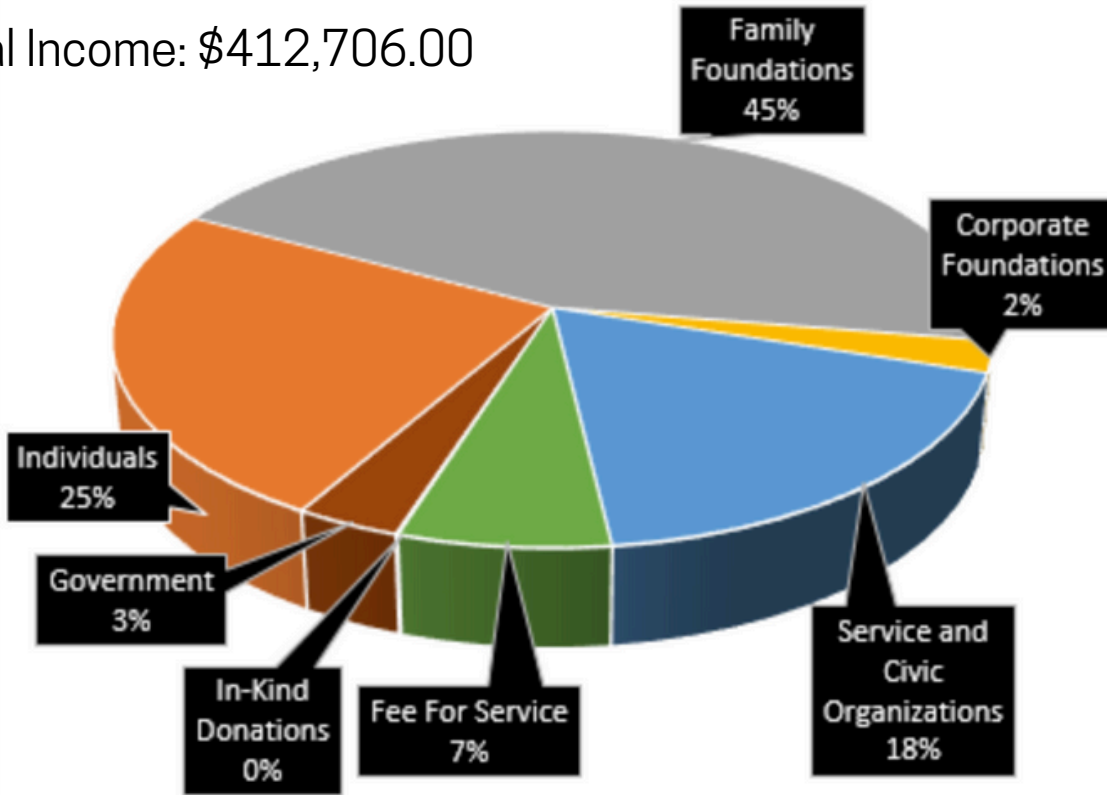


Sarah Kleven McGann, pictured center below, is a longstanding volunteer with Reading Legacies in our Book Bridges program. She describes her experience in the following words: ***"It has been a privilege to volunteer with Reading Legacies. I enjoy getting to know the students (participants), their commitment to their families in the most difficult of circumstances, and the connection they make with their families through Reading Legacies. I leave every program inspired by the students (participants) and grateful to be part of Reading Legacies."***

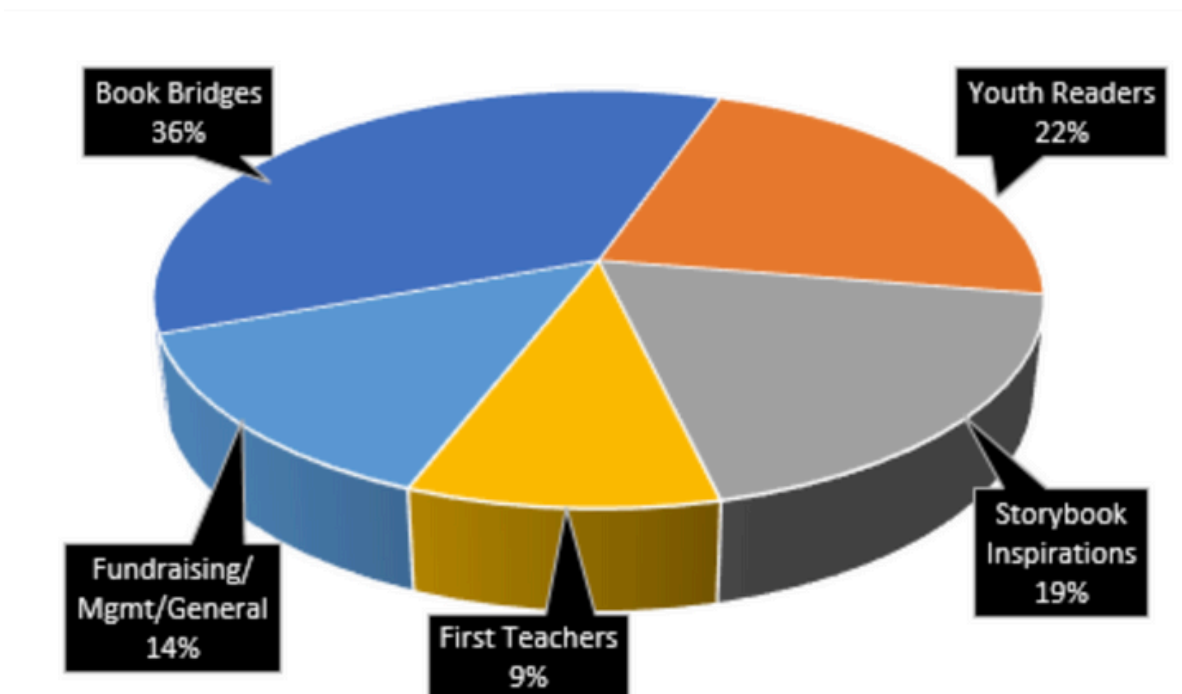


# 2023 INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT

Total Income: \$412,706.00



Total Expenses: \$421,940.00



# ... FOR OUR CHILDREN

## 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   

[www.readinglegacies.org](http://www.readinglegacies.org)