



Reading Ready Pittsburgh

is a non-profit organization supporting the healthy development of young children by increasing access to books and by encouraging significant family engagement through reading.



Letter From Executive Director & Founder

Thank you for making these first two years of Reading Ready Pittsburgh such a success. I am so proud to be able to write a letter for our very first Impact Report. From the beginning, our story was simple - we wanted to get books into the hands of parents and their young children to help support parent engagement around early reading. Reading Ready Pittsburgh has grown over the past two years in size and programming. After beginning in Homestead and surrounding areas, we have "crossed the bridge" and are now beginning to support families in Braddock and nearby communities. Our efforts have continued to be focused in the Mon Valley.

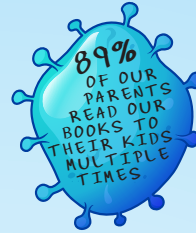
I am constantly astounded by the level of generosity Reading Ready Pittsburgh receives from community partners, schools, childcare programs, churches, volunteers, and individuals in the community. I am excited by the dedicated parents who invest so much energy into their children's future using the books and resources Reading Ready Pittsburgh has provided. I consider it an honor to take this time to say THANK YOU to the parents, childcare providers, and community members like you. You are the heroes of this story!



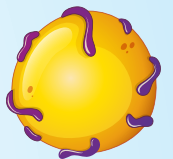
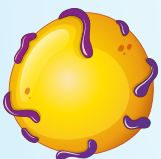
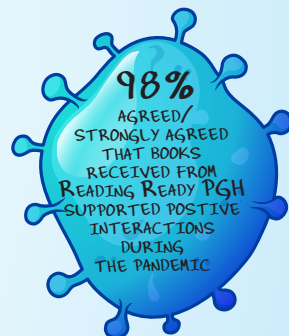
Mary Denison, PhD

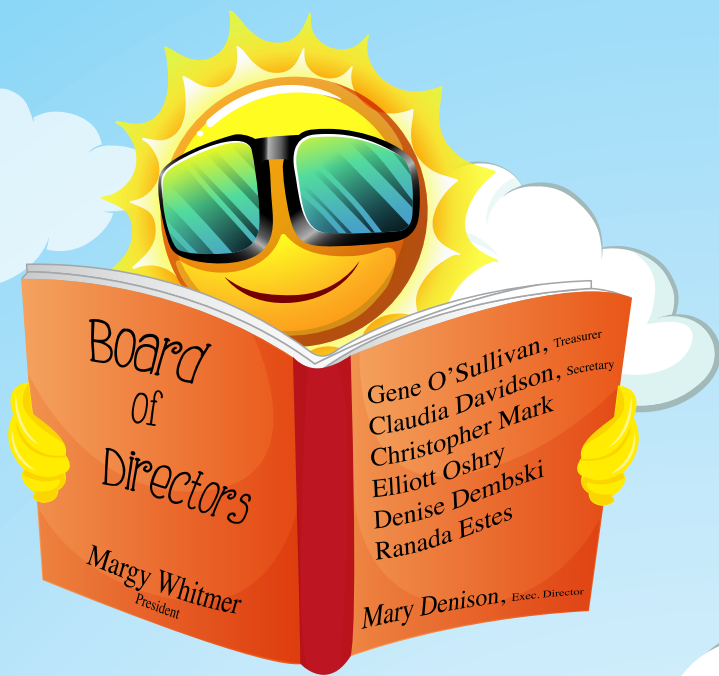


Coronavirus Response



With support from grants and donations, Reading Ready Pittsburgh was able to quickly take steps to assist with the literacy needs of children in the Mon Valley by delivering books to food distribution points, providing Child Care programs with new books for children to add to their home libraries, and collaborating with schools to deliver Super Summer Book Bags to assist with Kindergarten Readiness.





reading
ready
pittsburgh



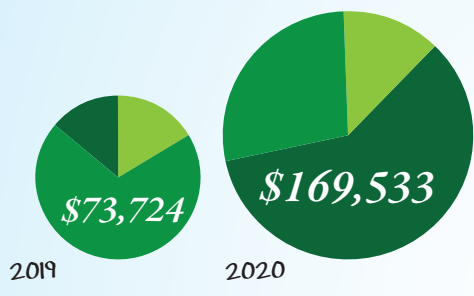
Supporting early literacy efforts
in the Mon Valley through:



- 1 Raising A Reader
- 2 Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
- 3 Little Giveaway Libraries

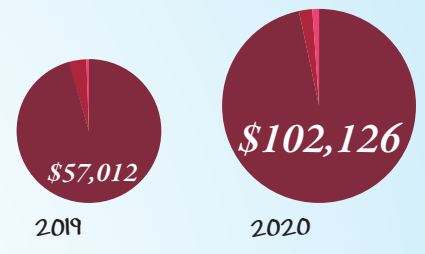
Income

- Donated Goods & Services
- Private Donations
- Foundation/ Institution Grants



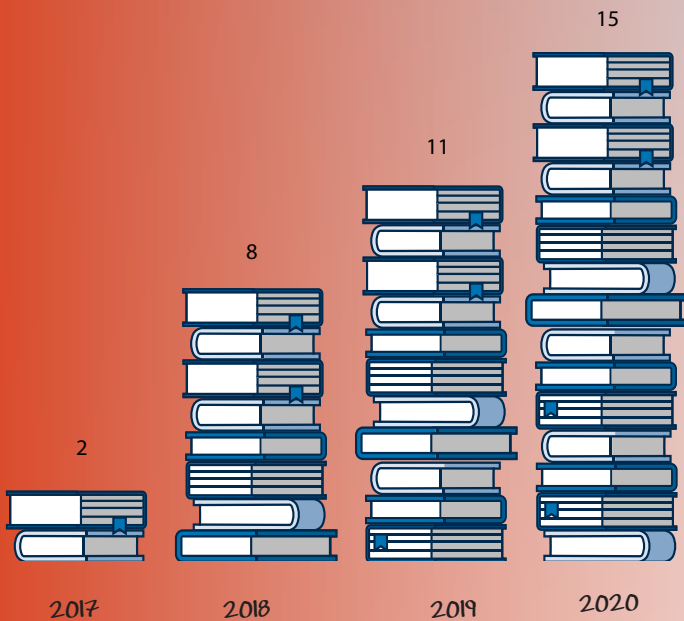
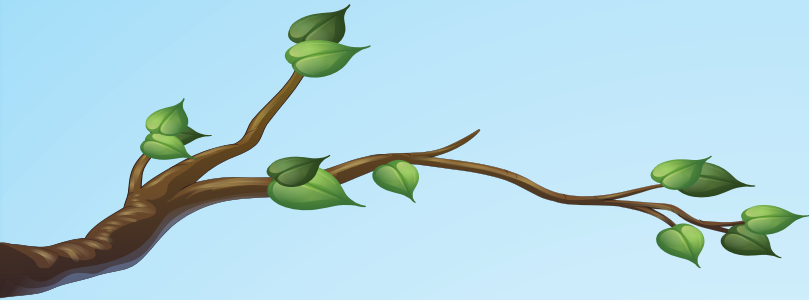
Expenses

- Fundraising
- Office & General
- Program Services





Raising A Reader



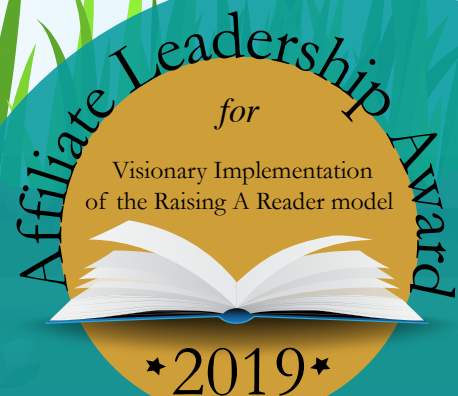
Partnering Childcare Sites

7 Allegheny Intermediate Unit classrooms
 (5 Head Start, 1 PreK Counts, 1 Early Head Start)
 Learning and Educational Daycare
 MUSA's Little Lambs • Douglas Academy
 Sister I Need You Learning Center
 Angels' Place • Jamie Miller Home Day Care
 Splash of Learning
 The Day School at The Children's Institute

282 RAR book bags in rotation

4 books in each book bag

1128 books regularly rotated among families each week in the Mon Valley



2



Children receiving books

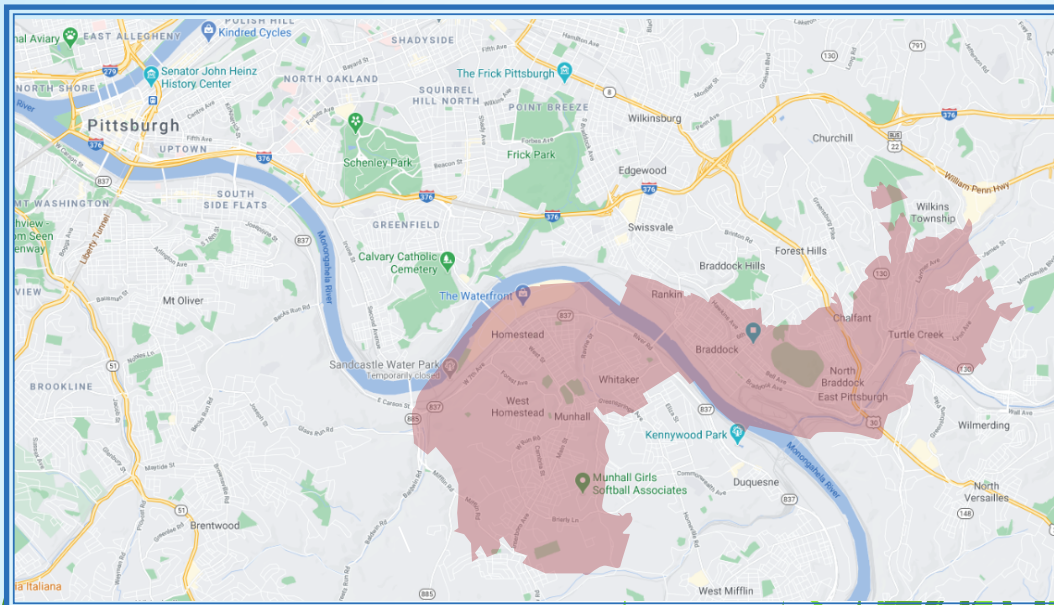
426

Through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, Reading Ready Pittsburgh works to increase access to high-quality books for children from birth to age 5.

■ We are "Local Champions" for: 15120, 15104, 15112, 15145

Total books mailed beginning June 2020

1,894



LITTLE GIVEAWAY LIBRARIES

Thanks to our generous book donors from all over the Pittsburgh area, we have collected and redistributed over 5000 gently-used children's books through our 4



Little Giveaway Libraries:

- Homestead Community Garden on 7th Ave & Amity St.
- COG Building in Homestead
- Inside the Laundromat at 212 E 8th Ave in Homestead.
- Angel's Place on Woodstock St. in Swissvale.

Meet Sam



Sam is an Eagle Scout who attends Pittsburgh SciTech. He chose building Little Libraries as his Eagle Scout project because of his love for learning and helping others.

Meet Dan



Dan works with his parents Sam and Diana to fill our Little Giveaway Libraries.



Financial Support

Campbell Educational and Community Foundation • Carnegie Library of Homestead • Children's Fund North Hills Unitarian Church • Child Health Association of Sewickley • First Unitarian Church • Grable Foundation • PNC Charitable Trusts Pendyala Family Foundation at Pittsburgh Foundation • Posner Foundation of Pittsburgh

Community Partnerships

Braddock Carnegie Library • Carnegie Library of Homestead • For Good PGH • Jefferson Regional Foundation • Propel Braddock Hills Propel Homestead • Rainbow Kitchen • Salvation Army • Steel Valley Council of Governments • Steel Valley Family Center • Steel Valley Public Schools • Steel Valley Roasters

Donors

Anonymous • Sue Abramson • Cecile Anater • Stewart and Deb Anderson • Judith Aracich Peter and Helene Argentine • Mare Barr • Kathleen Barr • Cynthia Berger • Nancy Bernstein Christine and Joseph Bettinger • Arlene Brandeis • Meghan Brown George and Mary Cheever • Jim and Nancy Connolly *in memory of Joseph Bettinger* • Loyd Daniel • Claudia Davidson • Amy de Chichi James Denova • Anna Diehl *in memory of Joseph Bettinger* • Ellen Dichner • Roy Dorrance • John and Lucy Douglas • Cathy Cohen Droz • Marion and Samuel Edelmann • Ebe Emmons • Judith Esman and David Goldman • Edward J. Feinstein • Cynthia and Robert Feldman • Linda Fleming • Ron and Rita Ford • Jeffrey Friedlander • Margaret Fuhrman • Jayne Gall • Joan Harvey • Stuart Hastings • Kathleen Hazeem • Ron Heakins • Sam and Kathryn Hens-Greco • Lysa Holland and Tom McNichol • Sally Janis Louise and Joseph Jencik • Merle Kailais • Portia Kamons • Mary Ruth Kelsey • Margaret King • Andrew Klein • Kathleen and Gary Kramer • Robert Lang • Marty and Alice Lieb • John Lystak • Jane MacLeod • Craig Marcus • Eleanor Mayfield • Peter Mark • Marie Mawe • Luke Meyers • Kate Meyers • Jon Minden and Deb Dunton • Cynthia Morelock • Elizabeth Mullaugh • Thomas Murphy • Allison, Raeann, and Chas Murray • David and Nan Newell • Gene and Sandy O'Sullivan • Janet Ocel • Elliott Oshry • Dee Jay Oshry and Bart Rack • Ken and Liz Perkins • Christopher Pogue-Geile • Paula Ann Pricken • Lynne Porterfield • Bruce Rabin • Mary and Christopher Rawson • Neil Resnick • Jean and Brooks Robinson • Brian Rohleder and David Doorley • Francine Rose • Linda Rosenbaum Ann and Richard Roth • Alice Schaeffer • Mary Schinhofen • Martin and Jean Schmidt • Naomi Siegel • Mirella Shapiro • Hedda B. Sharapan • A. Lee Shull, Jr. • Paul and Anna Siefken • Janet Slater • Muriel Slater • Peter and Susan Smerd • Scott and Anita Smith • Harry Soose • Steel Valley Rotary • Jane Steineck *in memory of Joseph Bettinger* • Eileen Stern • Becky Studer • Hannah Somers Value Drug Company *in memory of Joseph Bettinger* • The Vaskov Family *in memory of Joseph Bettinger* • Jo Ann Wagstaff • Laura Wenneker and Mike Morrill • Margaret A Whitmer • Mark Whittaker • David Wohleber • Sandra Woolley • Ilona Wyers

Volunteers

Christine and Joe Bettinger • Daniel Chetlin- technical supports • Nicki Dembski- videography • Justine Mark- technical supports • Sam, Dan, and Diana Robinson - book distribution • Bowen Schmidt - Little Library design • Hannah Somers - website development • Karen Lynne Williams - guest author • Randi Voss - photography • Sam Senkowicz - Little Library Carpentry

In-Kind Book Donations

Amy Kellman • Carnegie Free Library of Swissvale • CC Mellor Memorial Library • Heather Masterson Jessica Sunday and her Wexford Brownie Troop • Karen Lynn Williams • Naomi Weisberg Siegel • OneBook - North Allegheny High School



*Ranada and Sean
at the Carnegie Library
of Homestead*

Ranada Estes first met Mary Denison at MUSA's Little Lambs where Ranada was a childcare professional. At the time, Ranada had a 3 year old son who attended Learning and Educational Daycare, a nearby childcare provider. In preparation for Little Lambs' implementation of Raising A Reader, Mary presented a training for the staff which Ranada attended. Ranada was moved by the message about the importance of early reading. She asked many questions and suggested Mary contact Learning and Educational Daycare (L&E). Soon, Raising A Reader was offered at L&E and Ranada's son, Sean, was carrying his own Raising A Reader book bag home each week. Reading together each night at home quickly became a part of Ranada and Sean's routine. Ranada no longer works at Little Lambs or has a preschool age child, but she is still involved in Reading Ready Pittsburgh. Now she is a Board Member! She says, "Reading to my son is special every day and I know how important reading is to his development." She hopes serving on the board will help other parents have the same positive experience she has had.

See a short video of Ranada telling her own story on our website.

Want to help? Here is how to get involved:

Read in a classroom

Organize a book drive

Donate books

Support our work financially

www.readingreadypittsburgh.org